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# STARS AND STRIPES®

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MICHAEL MOLINA/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

**A landing craft air cushion prepares to enter the amphibious assault ship USS Wasp in the Philippine Sea in March.**

## Sailors battle to keep aging LCACs afloat

By JAMES BOLINGER  
*Stars and Stripes*

**SASEBO NAVAL BASE, Japan** — Mechanics face a daily struggle to keep the Navy's fleet of ancient air-cushioned landing craft afloat until new hovercraft begin arriving next month.

Replacements for the Navy's 72 landing craft air cushions, or LCACs, were supposed to start arriving last year; however, delivery of a new hovercraft — the \$57.7 million-per-unit "Ship-To-Shore Connector" — was delayed by technical challenges.

In the meantime, sailors have ramped up inspections on the old vessels to identify problems when they are small.

Many of the four-engine machines, which made their Navy debut in 1982, were supposed to have retired years ago, but 68 of them have had their service lifespans increased by a decade after improvements to power, command, control, communications, computer and navigational systems, the Navy said.

For now, sailors from Naval Beach Unit 7 at Sasebo Naval Base, Japan, are winning the battle against time.

In the past year, they've increased the readiness rate for their seven LCACs from less than 55 percent to nearly 70 percent, said Cmdr. Bob Jones, the unit's leader.

**SEE LCAC ON PAGE 2**

## COLLATERAL DAMAGE

Report: Use of shoulder-fired weapons could pose TBI risk

By WYATT OLSON  
*Stars and Stripes*

Troops in training or combat who use shoulder-supported heavy weapons are at risk for brain damage from blast pressure, a report commissioned by the Army found.

Servicemembers exposed to high levels of "blast overpressure" from heavy weapons, such as the Carl Gustaf recoilless rifle, have experienced problems with memory loss and decision-making, according to the report released last month by the think tank Center for New American Security.

The Defense Department has been tracking and studying traumatic brain injuries since 2000. Such injuries, which have often come from improvised explosive devices, or IEDs, are now well-

**A soldier from the 122nd Aviation Support Battalion, 82nd Combat Aviation Brigade, fires an M136 AT4 rocket launcher at Fort Bragg, N.C., last year. A new Army report suggests use of heavy arms could cause traumatic brain injuries in shooters.**

ADAM CAZAREZ  
Courtesy of the U.S. Army

documented. But the effects of pressure blasts from heavy weapons on gunners have been largely ignored.

"We were, quite honestly, shocked to find that there are these negative cognitive effects that are also coming from firing heavy weapons," said Paul Scharre, a co-author of the report and director of CNAS' technology and national security program.

The report was part of a larger project for the Army Research Laboratory that looked at emerging technologies to improve soldier protection and survivability, such as body armor and robotics, he said.

**SEE BLAST ON PAGE 7**

# MILITARY

## LCAC: Sailors perform numerous inspections in maintaining hovercraft

### FROM FRONT PAGE

To keep the them running, mechanics focus on things such as electronics that are susceptible to corrosion, he said.

Saltwater gets everywhere when a landing craft is underway, with plenty of sea spray at speeds of up to 45 knots, or nearly 52 mph. During a recent firefighting drill, crewmembers pumped water out of the ocean onto an engine.

To minimize corrosion, each landing craft is washed twice with fresh water after it returns from a voyage. Sailors also keep a close eye on the vessels' \$300,000 fiberglass propellers.

"If anything hits them, they will fly into pieces," said Petty Officer 1st Class Christopher Marcial, a navigator.

Gas turbine systems mechanics like Petty Officer 3rd Class

**Each hovercraft rides on a dozen air-filled cushions that cost between \$60,000 and \$80,000 to replace and are supposed to last six years.**

Jasmin Thapa are charged with inspecting the propellers. The job involves examining the blades to look for holes and chips and making sure edge guards haven't come loose, she said.

It's also important to make sure the propellers are balanced so the craft will hover smoothly, Thapa said.

"We measure the vibration of the blade while it's spinning," she said.

Sailors also are doing more inspections on the air-filled cushions that the hovercraft ride on. Each has a dozen that cost between \$60,000 and \$80,000 to replace and are supposed to last six years, Jones said.

The extra inspections come on top of a 180-hour annual hull inspection and engine checks based on hours of operation, he said.

The Sasebo-based hovercraft unit is a one-of-a-kind unit in the Navy. Its sailors also operate Landing Craft Utility boats that can deliver heavy-duty machinery and hundreds of Marines from ship to beach in support of Task Force 76, the Navy's amphibious task force in the Pacific.

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Above: Sailors complete a post-startup inspection on a landing craft air cushion April 19 at Sasebo Naval Base.

Left: Petty Officer 2nd Class Daniel Bernado, an LCAC loadmaster, operates a water pump used to fight fires while training April 19 near Sasebo Naval Base.

PHOTOS BY JAMES BOLINGER  
Stars and Stripes



Petty Officer 1st Class Carlos Rivera, a landing craft air cushion engineer, checks an instrument while training on April 19 near Sasebo Naval Base, Japan.

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## MILITARY

## Navy pilots practice carrier landings for Reagan deployment

By JAMES BOLINGER  
Stars and Stripes

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION IWAKUNI, Japan — Navy pilots are honing carrier-landing skills ahead of their next deployment on the USS Ronald Reagan.

Carrier Air Wing 5, which is assigned to the Yokosuka, Japan-based aircraft carrier, kicked off training Thursday that aims to get the fixed-wing pilots to maximum proficiency for carrier operations.

"The most important aspect of this training is getting our pilots back in the mindset of operating off of a carrier over open ocean," Lt. Cmdr. Matt Knight, a Task Force 70 spokesman, told Stars and Stripes in an email this week.

Aircraft involved include F/A-18E and F/A-18F Super Hornet strike jets, EA-18G Growler electronic warfare planes, E-2D Advanced Hawkeye early warning aircraft and C-2A Greyhound transports.

"The refresher training prior to deployment exercises the full spectrum of skills from the basics of carrier operations to the more advanced aspects of landing on a carrier at sea," Knight said.

**‘The most important aspect of this training is getting our pilots back in the mindset of operating off of a carrier over open ocean.’**

Lt. Cmdr. Matt Knight  
spokesman for Task Force 70

Pilots will land day and night, with most of the action taking place on Iwo Jima, which is known by the Japanese as Iwo To, a Navy statement said.

After the land-based training, the pilots will conduct day and night landings on the Ronald Reagan, Knight said.

Backup sites for the training include Naval Air Facility Misawa, Yokota Air Base, Naval Air Facility Atsugi and MCAS Iwakuni, the Navy said.

The training will wrap up on May 13.

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## New LPD ship to honor Medal of Honor recipient

By CAITLIN DOORNBOS  
Stars and Stripes

The Navy is naming its newest amphibious transport dock ship after a Medal of Honor recipient who helped save a kamikaze-attacked vessel during World War II.

The soon-to-be-built USS Richard M. McCool will honor Capt. Richard M. McCool Jr., who served aboard Landing Craft Support ship 122 off the coast of Okinawa during the war, the service announced Wednesday.

The McCool — the Navy's 13th San Antonio-class landing platform dock, or LPD, ship — "will support amphibious assault, special operations or expeditionary warfare missions and can serve as secondary aviation platforms for amphibious-ready groups," a Navy statement said.

On June 11, 1945, McCool's ship was attacked by three kamikaze aircraft near Okinawa. He was temporarily knocked unconscious but awoke in time to lead his fellow sailors in saving the ship and rescuing its injured sailors, the Navy said.

When President Harry S. Truman gave McCool the Medal of Honor six months later, he said the then-lieutenant had a "valiant

spirit of self-sacrifice in the face of extreme peril sustains and enhances the highest tradition of the United States Navy Service."

McCool went on to serve in the Korean and Vietnam wars.

"Capt. McCool served his nation with honor, distinction and an unparalleled sense of duty," Secretary of the Navy Richard Spencer said in the statement.

"His exemplary service in defense of our nation spanned 30 years and three wars."

"His legacy will live on in the future USS Richard M. McCool and his heroic actions will continue to inspire Sailors and Marines for decades to come."

It is unclear when the new vessel will be completed, but the Navy last year awarded a \$218 million contract to Huntington Ingalls Industries' shipbuilding division "to provide long-lead-time material and advance construction activities for LPD 29," the Navy said.

In February, Huntington Ingalls announced it had received \$1.43 billion contract for the detail design and construction of LPD 29, now known as the McCool.

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PHOTOS BY MARCUS FICHT/Stars and Stripes

Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy Steven Giordano speaks to sailors April 27 at Chinhae Naval Base, South Korea.

## Navy's top NCO pushes new enlisted leadership initiative

By MARCUS FICHT  
Stars and Stripes

CHINHAЕ NAVAL BASE, South Korea — Certified instructors and a refocusing on character are part of a new leadership program launched by the Navy's top enlisted sailor during a tour of 7th Fleet bases in the Indo-Pacific region.

The initiative, dubbed "Laying the Keel: Developing the Backbone of our Navy," marks the first significant change since 2011 to how the service trains its enlisted leaders.

"We started to realize ... this character piece in developing leaders wasn't as robust," said Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy Steven Giordano during a recent all-hands call at Chinhae Naval Base.

A Navy white paper followed by a year of surveys and focus groups found that competency and job knowledge were acceptable, but there was a problem with how young sailors were being taught to lead, Giordano said.

He said the program was born out of sailors' wants, not his

office.

"This is the U.S. Navy enlisted sailor's initiative that they have proposed forward," he said.

Currently, training courses for petty officers — the middle ranks of the Navy's enlisted — are done in-house without certified instructors. That's changing.

"The critical piece in it all is you've got to have somebody — up in front of you — in that room who can actually facilitate the curriculum," Giordano said during a stop in Chinhae as part of an 18-day tour that began April 24 in Guam.

Navy officials said a pilot program is underway and the new curriculum should be online by January.

Giordano said they are also reimagining the final push to the vaunted Navy chief petty officer rank by revamping the leadership training events and seminars continuously hosted by local commands.

The new version — called Sailor or 360 — will also be rolled out in "Laying the Keel." It replaces CPO 365.

"Sailor 360, to be honest with you, is really the vision that was intended for CPO 365," he said.

The leadership and scenario-based training typically had been dominated by chiefs and senior petty officers but ignored the more junior ranks, Giordano said.

He said all ranks — officer and enlisted — will be invited to participate in Sailor 360.

Giordano told Stars and Stripes after the all-hands call that he hopes an ethos of ownership will come from this program and take over the Navy.

"Too often, we look to the external to find the answer first when it's much easier to find the answer when you look into the internal first," he said.

He hopes those answers will be found once the new leadership programs hit full steam.

"I'm looking forward to how they will own this Sailor 360 process, what initiatives they will put forward and the impact it will have," he said.

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## New carrier's structure 75 percent done

Associated Press

NEWPORT NEWS, Va. — The nation's next aircraft carrier is now 75 percent structurally complete.

The Virginian-Pilot reported Monday that a 750-metric-ton section was installed on the main

deck of the future USS John F. Kennedy. The ship has been under construction at Newport News Shipbuilding in Virginia since 2015.

The ship is being built using modular construction. That means 341 of the Kennedy's total 447 sections are now in place.

The Kennedy is the second ship in its class. The first was the USS Gerald R. Ford, which was commissioned during a ceremony at Naval Station Norfolk in July.

The Kennedy is scheduled to be christened in 2019. Delivery to the Navy is expected in 2022.



## MILITARY

## C-130 crashed on way to USAF 'Boneyard'

By COREY DICKSTEIN  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — An old cargo plane used by the Puerto Rico Air National Guard was on its way to an aircraft graveyard in Arizona when it crashed Wednesday near Savannah, Ga., killing all nine Guard members on board.

On Thursday, the nine Guardsmen were identified. All Puerto Ricans, the men ranged in rank from a senior airman with three years of service to a major who had served 23 years, according to a Puerto Rico Guard statement.

The guard members killed in the crash near Savannah-Hilton Head International Airport were:

■ Maj. José R. Román Rosado, a pilot, from Manati, who had served 18 years in the military. He is survived by his pregnant wife and two sons.

■ Maj. Carlos Pérez Serra, a navigator, from Canóvanas, who served 23 years in the military. He is survived by his wife, two sons and a daughter.

■ 1st Lt. David Albandoz, a pilot from Puerto Rico who recently resided in Madison, Ala., and had served 16 years in the military. He is survived by his wife and daughter.

■ Senior Master Sgt. Jan Paravasin, a mechanic, from Canóvanas, who had served 21 years in the military. He is survived by his two daughters and a son.

■ Master Sgt. Jean Audfried, from Carolina, who had served 16 years in the military. He is survived by his wife and two daughters.

■ Master Sgt. Mario Ibraña, a flight engineer, from Bayamón, who had served 17 years in the military. He is survived by his mother and daughter.

■ Master Sgt. Victor Colón, of Santa Isabel, had served 22 years in the military. He is survived by his wife and two daughters.

■ Master Sgt. Eric Circuns, a loadmaster, from Rio Grande, had served 31 years in the military. He is survived by his wife,

two stepdaughters, and a son.

■ Senior Airman Roberto Espasola, of Salinas. He had served three years in the military, and is survived by his grandmother.

The airmen were killed when their C-130 Hercules crashed shortly after taking off on a flight to Davis-Monthan Air Force Base's 399th Aerospace Maintenance and Regeneration Center, said Army Maj. Paul Dahlen, a spokesman for the Puerto Rico National Guard. Known as "The Boneyard," the facility stores decommissioned aircraft, which are sometimes later returned to service.

Before leaving on the doomed flight, the crew had spent several days in Savannah for standard preventative aircraft maintenance, Dahlen said. The Savannah airport, in an industrial area just north of the coastal city, is home to the Georgia Air National Guard's 165th Airlift Wing, which flies and maintains C-130s.

It is not clear what caused the plane to go down just moments after takeoff. Video of the crash captured by a nearby security camera and shared on social media shows the plane flying low, turning its wings, before suddenly diving nose-first toward the ground behind a line of trees. A moment later a fireball can be seen rising into the sky followed by a cloud of thick, black smoke.

The C-130's pilot radioed a distress call and indicated he planned to return the plane to the airport just before the crash, an emergency response official said on the condition of anonymity because the official was not authorized to release the information publicly.

The Air Force has launched an investigation into the crash that left a debris field over some 600 feet in Port Wentworth, a town just north of Savannah, more than 100 miles from the airport, said Air Force Col. Pete Boone, the vice wing commander of the 165th Airlift Wing.



STEVE BISSON, SAVANNAH (GA), MORNING NEWS/AP

First responders work the scene of a deadly crash of an Air National Guard C-130 cargo plane in Port Wentworth, Ga., on Wednesday.

He expressed condolences to family members who lost loved ones in the crash.

"We are a close-knit family and when a tragedy like this occurs every member of the United States Armed Forces feels it," Boone said.

The exact age of the plane was unclear, but it was at least 40 years old, officials agreed. The plane was a WC-130H model known as a "Hurricane Hunter," which was once outfitted to conduct weather reconnaissance missions, including flying directly into hurricanes to collect data. The plane more recently had been used primarily to haul people and cargo, officials said.

Boone told reporters that the aircraft had been manufactured in the 1970s, however the Puerto Rico National Guard's top officer, Army Brig. Gen. Isabelo Rivera said late Wednesday that the plane was more than 60 years old. He said it was one of six similar aircraft in the Puerto Rican Guard's inventory.

"The planes that we have in Puerto Rico — it's not news today

that they are the oldest planes on inventory" in the military," Rivera said during a news conference, adding it was difficult to get parts shipped to Puerto Rico.

The unit's C-130s were used heavily during last year's hurricane season conducting humanitarian missions in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands after two hurricanes devastated the American territories in the Caribbean.

The crashed C-130 was among the planes that logged thousands of miles delivering supplies, food and water to the islands after hurricanes Irma and Maria, Dahlen said. All nine airmen who perished in the crash had participated in some of those missions, he said.

They were not strangers to Savannah, where the Georgia National Guard base attached to the airport was one of several hubs for delivering supplies to locations impacted by the storms. Dahlen said the crews often stopped in the city, as they shuttled gear, provisions and people back and forth.

Wednesday's crash was the latest in a long string of aircraft mishaps. In the last month, at least seven U.S. military aircraft have crashed, leaving 16 service members dead. It was the second Air Force fatality since the beginning of April.

Despite the string of fatal aircraft mishaps that have spanned all four branches of the U.S. military, Defense Department officials have insisted military aviation is not facing an emergency.

"This is not a crisis," Pentagon Press Secretary Dana White said Thursday. "But it is a crisis for each of these families."

White told reporters at the Pentagon that Defense Secretary Jim Mattis is confident the leadership in each of the military services is committed to proper investigations of aviation crashes and implementing changes that those probes determine necessary.

Not all of the recent crashes have obvious links, she said. Nonetheless, she implored lawmakers to ensure full funding of the Pentagon in the future. Several lawmakers have placed the blame for aviation and other fatal mishaps on funding shortfalls in recent years due to sequestration and abbreviated, temporary defense budgets known as continuing resolutions. Pentagon officials have said they were uncertain the issues were directly linked.

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## Navy sees rise in 'minor' aviation accidents

By DAN LAMOTHE  
The Washington Post

Navy Secretary Richard Spencer said Wednesday that an increase in nonfatal aviation mishaps is a "leading indicator" of the problems the military should examine after a year in which many U.S. troops were killed at home and abroad in crashes.

Spencer spoke before reporters at the Pentagon alongside the top officers in the Navy and Marine Corps.

Navy Adm. John Richardson and Marine Corps Commandant Gen. Robert Neller both said most of the incidents were "minor," but Neller described the Marine Corps' recent overall track record in stark terms.

"So last year we had a horrible

year. We had a horrible year," Neller said. "And my heart goes out to the families that lost a ... son, or in this case, we had a sailor and 15 Marines on a C-130."

The comments came after a five-year period in which at least 133 U.S. servicemembers have been killed in crashes.

An investigation by the Military Times newspaper chain recently found that the number of incidents involving manned aircraft jumped almost 40 percent between 2013 and the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 2017, with a 108 percent increase in accidents involving one kind of fighter jet, the F/A-18 Super Hornet.

The scrutiny comes after nearly 17 U.S. troops were killed in Afghanistan and other countries following

the attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, with an air campaign against Islamic State since 2014 taxing aircraft and maintenance crews.

The military officials noted Wednesday that the overall increase in crashes can be attributed largely to a rise in so-called "Class C mishaps," which cause between \$50,000 and \$500,000 in damage to the aircraft but no deaths. More serious "Class A mishaps" result in fatalities or at least \$2 million in damage, while Class B mishaps cause between \$500,000 and \$2 million in damage or lead to the hospitalization of three people or a debilitating injury for one.

Richardson rejected any notion that the Navy is sending pilots into the war who are not ready to fly or have dangerous aviation

But he and Neller acknowledged that after years of congressional-mandated budget cuts known as sequestration, pilots have less experience than they once did. A pilot with several years experience in the military 20 years ago would have had probably 1,200 to 1,500 hours in a cockpit, but now gets closer to 800, Neller said.

"We didn't fund aviation readiness to the amount that we probably should have because we ... were in this kind of financial fiscal reduction, OK? There were decisions that were made," Neller said.

"So, you know, we've got a backlog of maintenance," he said. "We've got airplanes now coming out of depot."



## VETERANS

# Bill would overhaul VA community care programs

By NIKKI WENTLING  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Lawmakers are trying again to broker a deal on reforms for the Department of Veterans Affairs that would overhaul the agency's community care programs, relaxing rules for when veterans are eligible to go to private doctors for medical care.

Rep. Phil Roe, R-Tenn., the chairman of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, introduced legislation Thursday that's similar to a deal that failed in March to be included in a massive spending bill that Congress pushed to avoid a government shutdown.

In addition to altering how the VA uses private-sector care, Roe's bill — titled the VA Mission Act — would provide \$5.2 billion for the VA Choice program. It would also expand benefits for veteran caregivers and initiate a systematic review of VA infrastructure, among other measures.

"This legislation must be passed, and if Congress fails to act, veterans will pay for that failure," Roe wrote in a prepared statement. "The VA Mission Act is appropriately named, as it will put the department back on track to fulfilling President (Abraham

Lincoln's promise to care for the men and women who have borne the battle."

Republicans on the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee support Roe's bill.

It's uncertain whether House Democrats will be in favor of the bill. In March, Democrats on the House VA committee opposed the deal reached between other lawmakers. They argued it was too rushed, and they cited policy concerns.

As of Thursday morning, Rep. Tim Walz, D-Minn., the committee's ranking Democrat, was seeking feedback from outside stakeholders on the VA Mission Act and had not yet taken a position on it.

The committee will meet Tuesday to discuss the bill and determine whether to advance it to the House floor.

Congress, along with the VA, White House and veterans organizations, has spent more than a year negotiating changes to the VA's private-sector care programs.

The debate has been long and contentious, and former VA Secretary David Shulkin blamed it for his ouster in March. The day after his dismissal, Shulkin said some political appointees at the

VA viewed him as an "obstacle to privatization."

Lawmakers and veterans advocates agree VA community care programs need to be fixed, but there's disagreement over how aggressively veterans' care should be pushed into the private sector. Many veterans organizations believe offering "unfettered choice" to veterans would erode VA resources and eventually dismantle the agency.

As of now, the VA Choice program allows veterans to receive appointments in the private sector if they have to wait longer than 30 days to be seen at the VA or live more than 40 miles driving distance from a VA facility. Congress agrees those rules are rigid and bureaucratic.

Roe's bill would require the VA to grant veterans access to the private sector if they and their VA doctor agree it's in their best interest. A host of issues could be taken into account when making that decision, including whether the veteran faces an "unusual or excessive burden" to accessing a VA facility.

The bill also introduces the possibility of veterans receiving access to the private sector if their closest VA is determined to be "deficient" compared with

other VA and non-VA facilities.

If a veteran's request for private-sector care is rejected, they could appeal it through the VA's clinical appeal process, the bill states.

After its introduction Thursday, the bill received quick praise from the conservative advocacy group Concerned Veterans for America as well as one traditional veterans service organization, the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

"VFW members around the country have made it clear that the VA health care system must be improved, not dismantled," said VFW National Commander Keith Harman.

The legislation includes an end date for the current iteration of the VA Choice program, which was created in response to the 2014 wait-time scandal. If the bill is passed, the program would expire one year after it's signed into law.

The \$5.2 billion included for the program in the VA Mission Act is intended to last the program through the next year.

The Choice account has come close to bankruptcy multiple times in the past two years, and each time Congress has passed emergency funding measures within days of the program run-

ning out of money.

It's expected to be depleted again by the first week of June unless Congress acts.

Acting VA Secretary Robert Wilkie has called on Congress multiple times during the past two weeks to pass legislation by Memorial Day, which is May 28.

Besides revamping private-sector care programs, the VA Mission Act contains a gradual expansion of caregiver benefits to veterans injured before the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

A process to take stock of VA infrastructure problems is also included. The bill would create a commission tasked with reviewing VA buildings nationwide and making recommendations.

If the measure is approved, the asset review commission would conduct its work in 2022 and 2023.

There are a list of other provisions in the bill, including one to provide scholarships to medical students in return for 18 months of work at a VA facility.

Another would require the VA to post publicly a list of job vacancies.

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## PACIFIC



PHOTOS BY LEON COOK/Stars and Stripes

Students don traditional Japanese kimonos with help from local volunteers during Asian-Pacific Day at Yokota High School at Yokota Air Base, Japan, on Thursday.

# The lessons of heritage

## Volunteers teach students about Asia-Pacific culture

By LEON COOK  
Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — Students at Yokota High School learned about Asian and Pacific cultures from local volunteers Thursday during the school's annual Asia-Pacific Day.

Japanese residents from communities near the home of the 5th Air Force and U.S. Forces Japan in western Tokyo and American volunteers with Asian and Pacific heritage demonstrated traditional arts, cuisine, music and clothing.

Students learned to use a wooden mallet to pound steamed rice into a mochi rice cake — a treat that's traditionally eaten during the Japanese New Year but consumed year-round.

Other volunteers taught youngsters to play taiko drums, the large percussion instruments used at Japanese festivals to keep time during dances.

Students also tried their hands — and feet — at taekwondo, a Korean martial art emphasizing kicks, and kendo, a Japanese martial art using wooden swords.

Some kids practiced calligraphy, the traditional Chinese and Japanese art of painting Kanji characters, and played the koto, an ancient 13-stringed Japanese instrument.

Other activities included learning to wear a kimono and hula dancing.

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Students play the koto, an ancient 13-stringed instrument important in traditional Japanese culture.



Students pound steamed rice to prepare mochi, a type of rice cake enjoyed during Japanese New Year.



Yokota students try the traditional Japanese martial art of kendo.

## MILITARY

# US pilots in Djibouti targeted with lasers near Chinese base

By JOHN VANDIVER  
AND COREY DICKSTEIN  
Stars and Stripes

The United States lodged a formal complaint to China, asking the country to investigate repeated instances in which American military aircraft were targeted by high-powered lasers near a Chinese military base in Djibouti, the Pentagon said Thursday.

The United States is confident the Chinese are involved in the incidents, said Dana White, Pentagon spokeswoman. The lasers were described as "military grade," and White said between two and 10 incidents have occurred recently.

"They are very serious incidents," she told reporters at the Pentagon on Thursday. "There have been two minor injuries. This activity poses a true threat to our airman."

Another Pentagon spokeswoman, Army Maj. Sheryl Klinkel,

said those injuries were to a pair of American pilots flying a C-130 turboprop transport who were exposed to the laser beam during a recent flight.

FAA coordinates for the origin of the laser attacks reveal a location in the sea 750 meters from China's base, Jane's Defense reported.

On Thursday, the FAA issued a warning advising military aircraft to exercise "extreme caution" when transiting the area. The FAA has issued repeated warnings since April 14 to pilots in the area.

The malicious use of lasers to flash-blind pilots has been a worldwide problem over the past two decades. Incidents of laser interference generally involve people directing lasers at aircraft on takeoff or on the final landing approach, the most critical phases of flight. In some cases, pilots flying the aircraft have been forced

to hand the controls over to their co-pilots after having their vision temporarily impaired.

In 2017, China opened its first overseas base in Djibouti, a tiny but strategically important Horn of Africa country. The Chinese base is close to Camp Lemonnier, a hub for American missions in the region.

AFRICOM chief Gen. Thomas Waldhauser has expressed concerns about potential Chinese snooping in Djibouti and Beijing's growing influence in the country.

During the past decade, China has become a major economic presence in Africa, but Djibouti is Beijing's first military foothold on the continent.



JOSHUA J. GARCIA/Courtesy of the U.S. Air Force

Two KC-135 Stratotankers sit on the runway at Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti, before a 2016 mission.

"U.S. Africa Command views security and access to Djibouti as a top priority. Consequently, we continue to monitor this development to ensure U.S. interests are not deterred," Waldhauser said during congressional testimony in March.

AFRICOM's strategy in Africa is now taking a larger account of China as "the strategic environment becomes more crowded and competitive," Waldhauser said.

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## Blast: Co-author of report advocates for 'comprehensive limit' for firing heavy weapons

### FROM FRONT PAGE

A former Army Ranger, Scharre has fired heavy weapons that give off blast pressure, such as AT4 anti-tank guns, the M72 anti-armor LAW and .50-caliber sniper rifles.

"They have quite a punch, and soldiers who have shot them will tell you there's a big pressure coming off the weapon, but there wasn't a depth of understanding about some of the cognitive deficits that can come from very small amounts of exposure," he said.

As the NFL has come to understand, Scharre said, it's not just the big concussions you need to think about. "It's the routine hits people are getting that put them at risk."

A 2008 study published in the Journal of Neurotrauma used pigs and rats to measure the effects of blast overpressure from several shoulder-mounted guns and a howitzer. Small hemorrhages were found in some of the animals' brains, tears that increased with blast intensity. Damage occurred in some cases after only three shots of the weapon.

"In practice, gunners for these weapons could be exposed to significantly more shots during training, sometimes up to 20 or more shots per day," the CNAS report said.

It recommends the Defense Department immediately amend the daily firing limits for servicemembers shooting these heavy weapons to below the threshold that causes cognitive problems.

"Right now, if you're using these weapons within approved

firing limits, you still have some servicemembers who experience cognitive deficit," Scharre said. "The other thing is that the limits right now apply only to a 24-hour period," he said. It takes up to 96 hours after firing the daily approved firing limits for servicemembers to "reset back to baseline," he said.

In addition, daily maximum limits aren't cumulative, meaning they do not take into account that multiple heavy weapons systems might be fired in a day, he said.

"They need a comprehensive limit that covers all these heavy weapons," he said.

The report recommends that the Defense Department also establish annual and lifetime exposure limits for these weapons.

Reliable data on long-term effects of these pressure blasts do not yet exist so the annual and lifetime limits would need to err on the side of being overly conservative, Scharre said.

Users of the weapons should routinely wear blast gauges to record the cumulative amount of pressure over time, which would become part of a servicemember's service record, the study recommended.

Computer modeling has shown that full-face helmets can reduce blast pressure to the brain by up to 80 percent, Scharre said.

Further research is needed into the best design for such a helmet, including an assessment of the risk tradeoffs due to increased helmet weight and greater torque on the neck, the report said.

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## MILITARY

# Marines investigate 130 after nude photos scandal

By LOLITA C. BALDOR  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — More than a year after a nude photo-sharing scandal rocked the Marine Corps, the service has investigated about 130 individuals for online misconduct, ranging from sexual harassment and bullying to revenge porn. Nearly 60 faced some type of punishment.

Marine Commandant Gen. Robert Neller told Marines Wednesday that he's trying to create a cultural change in the Corps, but he acknowledged the challenge.

"Are we where we want to be? No," Neller said. "It's been a year. We're trying to change a culture that didn't start a year ago."

Neller's comments came on the heels of a Pentagon report that said sexual assaults against the Marine Corps increased by nearly 15 percent last year compared with 2016.

He noted that many believe that increased reporting shows confidence in the chain of command and a belief that there is less of a chance of retribution for a complaint.

But, he added, "If that number continues to go up ... we have to decide if that's because we still can't improve our behavior and our culture."

As of April 18, the Marine Corps has investigated 108 Marines and 22 civilians for online misconduct. Some cases were related to the online nude photo-sharing scandal and others were not. So far, seven people were convicted

## Punishments

As of April 18, the Marine Corps has investigated 108 Marines and 22 civilians for online misconduct. Not all of the cases were related to the online nude photo-sharing scandal.

So far:

- 7 people were convicted in court-martial proceedings.
- 16 faced nonjudicial punishments.
- 28 faced other administrative actions.
- 7 were discharged from the Marine Corps.

SOURCE: The Associated Press

in court-martial proceedings, 16 faced nonjudicial punishments, 28 faced other administrative actions and seven were discharged from the Marine Corps.

The photo-sharing scandal came to light early last year when nude photographs of female Marines, veterans from across the military and other women were shared on the Facebook page Marines United. Comments and posts under some photos included obscene and threatening comments.

An investigation by the Naval Criminal Investigative Service determined that the overwhelming majority of the photos were selfies or were posed for and then voluntarily shared, which is not illegal even under military code. As a result, only a small num-

ber of military members faced charges or discipline for their participation on the website. The scandal, however, prompted the military services to revise and more strongly enforce online behavior, including on social media websites.

Neller said the discipline isn't about "hanging scalps" but rather about teaching Marines that they are held to a higher standard of behavior.

But he flatly rejected any changes in how the Marines keep male and female recruits separate for portions of their boot camp.

To segregation has faced criticism and calls for change from members of Congress who say the recruits should be integrated, as they are in the other services.

The Marines assign female recruits to their own platoon and argue that keeping them separate, particularly for the first three weeks of training, better enables them to become more competitive.

Neller said that the male and female platoons do 65 to 70 percent of their training together, including rifle training, swim qualifying, fitness tests and battle skills training.

"This is the way we believe is the most effective way to make a Marine. We don't do it for any other reason. We don't do it to disadvantage women. Quite frankly, we do it to advantage women. We want them focused on learning how to be a Marine," Neller said.

"Am I considering any changes right now? No."

The business coalition is asking Congress to publicly release those reports "to increase transparency in the acquisition process."

The Pentagon has said it would submit the reports to Congress by Monday.

The department has so far declined to release a formal justification for its single-award decision. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis told a panel of senators on April 26 that the Pentagon's goal is "to get the best possible service for the front line."

He denied the eventual winner has been decided.

"I'm aware that some people in industry believe this should be a good opportunity thing where everyone gets a piece of the pie," he said.

The Pentagon has said it's making the shift to the cloud to give it a tactical edge in the battlefield and strengthen its use of emerging technologies. The department has said it plans to issue the final request for proposal by May 15 and award the contract by the end of September.



MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

**Army Maj. Gen. Ryan Gonsalves addresses officers at the 2017 Saber Guardian exercise in Romania. Gonsalves' retirement Tuesday came six months after an inspector general's probe determined he violated Army policy on treatment of others.**

## Army general retires 6 months after IG rebuke

By JOHN VANDIVER  
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — Maj. Gen. Ryan Gonsalves, who was slated for promotion until he was faulted for disrespectful conduct toward a congressional staffer, retired from the Army on Tuesday.

Gonsalves' retirement comes six months after an inspector general's probe determined the commander violated an Army policy that requires treating others with "dignity and respect."

"Maj. Gen. Ryan Gonsalves officially retired I May 2018," Army spokeswoman April Cunningham said in a statement.

In July, Gonsalves, who commanded the 4th Infantry Division, was nominated for a third star and was a contender to be the next head of U.S. Army Europe.

The IG determined that Gonsalves, during meetings at his headquarters in Fort Carson, Colo., was dismissive of a female congressional aide, calling the staffer "sweetheart" at one point during the October 2016 meeting.

Gonsalves' nomination was formally withdrawn on Nov. 27. Gonsalves, who could not be reached for comment and has not spoken publicly about the incident, served for nearly 35 years with assignments that included deployments to Iraq. As head of 4th ID, Gonsalves was responsible for preparing numerous units for deployments to Europe.

In recent years, multiple senior commanders have faced IG probes regarding accusations of misconduct. Often, the accusations deal with sexual improprieties or misuse of funds and are career ending.

In Gonsalves' case, it was verbal slights that brought an early end to a career that was on the rise.

An anonymous complaint was made to the IG on July 20, days

after Gonsalves' nomination for a third star and one week after Stars and Stripes reported he was in contention to serve as the next commander of U.S. Army Europe.

Gonsalves' pending nomination prompted an angry reaction from a staffer of Rep. Jim Langevin, a Democrat from Rhode Island, according to the IG report.

The Army IG report, obtained by Stars and Stripes, redacted the names of the female congressional staffer and about 10 other people who were present during the October 2016 meeting at Fort Carson. The report included testimony from members of Gonsalves' staff who took part in the session.

The complaint cited accusations that Gonsalves took issue with the female congressional staffer's youth, and that the general said she should take detailed notes on why the military needed funding "since she was a Democrat and did not believe in funding the military," the IG report stated.

Multiple members of the congressional delegation described Gonsalves' remarks during the meeting as "sarcastic and unprofessional," the report states. Another male staffer described the remarks as "sexist, inappropriate and unprofessional," according to the report.

At one point during the meeting, the female staffer passed a note to a colleague that read, "Did this guy really just call me sweetheart?" the report states.

Some people in attendance defended Gonsalves, saying he acted professionally.

"Although MG Gonsalves testified that he did not refer to (the female staffer) as 'sweetheart' during the meeting, the evidence did not support his recollection," the IG report states.

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## Group: Release Pentagon cloud award report

Bloomberg News

WASHINGTON — A group representing some of the tech industry's largest companies is urging Congress to increase transparency of the Pentagon's winner-take-all competition for a broad-based cloud services contract that may be valued at billions of dollars.

The IT Alliance for Public Sector, a division of the Information Technology Industry Council, or ITI, sent a letter on Monday to the House and Senate Armed Services committees asking members to publicly release the Pentagon's justification for choosing just one winner for its cloud services project known as the Joint Enterprise Defense Infrastructure Cloud Program.

Tech companies jockeying for a piece of the Pentagon's business have urged the Defense Department to pick multiple cloud providers for the project, arguing that the Pentagon's requirements unfairly favor Amazon.com, the dominant cloud services company.

Companies also say choosing just one company for the job will stifle innovation and raise security risks.

"The current strategy dilutes the benefits of best practices, strongly increasing the likelihood of vendor and technology lock-in, and negatively impacting innovation, costs, and security," the group said in the letter. "Moreover, it sends an ominous signal that competitors should not invest in the public sector marketplace."

Representatives from the Defense Department and the two committees didn't immediately respond to requests for comment. The letter, which ITI confirmed, was first reported by Nexgov, an online site focusing on technology and the federal government.

ITI's letter refers to a provision lawmakers added to the \$1.3 trillion spending bill Trump signed in March, which asked the Pentagon to deliver two reports — outlining its procurement strategy for cloud computing services and a justification for why the agency is planning to award a single contract.

NATION

Debate on CIA pick: Link to torture vs. experience

**By DEB RIECHMANN**  
*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — With few details about Gina Haspel's undercover career, debate over President Donald Trump's nominee for CIA descended into verbal sparring between those who praise her experience and others who want her disqualified because of her role in the spy agency's harsh interrogation of terrorism subjects after 9/11.

Haspel faces a contentious hearing in the Senate intelligence committee next week ahead of what the White House admits will be a close confirmation vote in the full Senate.

Hoping to sway senators his way, Trump tweeted on Wednesday, "Gina Haspel has displayed dedication and leadership throughout her more than three decades of service with the CIA and is the right person to lead the Agency."

That was a few hours after her critics held a conference call in which Chris Anders, of the American Civil Liberties Union, lamented, "If confirmed, Gina Haspel would be the first and only person confirmed by the Senate — we believe in its entire history — with a known operational role in using torture."

Also on that call was Dan Jones, the lead author of the Senate's report about how the CIA captured and sent terrorism subjects overseas to black sites where they were harshly interrogated.

"The findings and conclusions of the Senate were that the program was deeply mismanaged, that the CIA had provided misinformation to the president, Department of Justice, Congress and the American people," Jones said.

"Haspel would have been aware of the deficiencies in the

program," he said, given her positions with the CIA's counterterrorism center and field operations from 2001 to 2008.

Jones wouldn't say how many times Haspel's name was mentioned in the 7,000-page Senate report that remains classified except for a 500-page executive summary. But he noted that Democratic Sens. Dianne Feinstein, of California; Martin Heinrich, of New Mexico; and Ron Wyden, of Oregon, who have had access to the entire report, have said that the more they read the classified version, the more disturbed they are by the actions Haspel has taken during her career.

Haspel, 61, the agency's acting director, joined the CIA in 1985. In a statement, the White House said she has shown an "unparalleled commitment to the mission of the CIA and the rule of law" and has counterterrorism and management experience and strong working relations with administration officials.

To be confirmed she will need at least 50 of the Senate's 100 senators to give her the nod since Vice President Mike Pence can break a tie.

Haspel has received robust backing from former intelligence, diplomatic, military and national security officials. They recently wrote a letter saying Haspel is a "proven leader" who can "make tough calls in times of crisis."

Among those signing the letter were six former CIA directors: Porter Goss, John Brennan, Leon Panetta, George Tenet, William Webster and Mike Hayden — and three former national intelligence directors — James Clapper, Mike McConnell and John Negroponte.

However, many human rights advocates and groups are urging a "no" vote for Haspel.

Released memo shows lobbyist sought EPA posts for his client

*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — The lobbyist whose wife rented a condo to Environmental Protection Agency head Scott Pruitt at \$50 a night sought EPA committee posts for a lobbying client, according to a newly released EPA memo.

J. Steven Hart's seeking those appointments from his wife's former tenant, Pruitt, shows "the extent to which the special interests providing him with gifts have sought specific favors from EPA in return," said Rep. Frank Pallone, of New Jersey, the senior Democrat on the House Energy and Commerce Committee.

The memo makes for the latest in a monthslong barrage of news reports and federal investigations questioning spending and other actions at Pruitt's EPA.

Pruitt has repeatedly blamed his security staff and other subordinates for questioned spending by his office. Last week, the EPA head told congressional lawmakers

he had no idea staffers had spent \$43,000 on a soundproof booth after he asked for a private, secure communications set-up.

His former deputy chief of staff, Kevin Chmielewski, denied that, telling ABC News in a segment aired Wednesday that Pruitt knew the booth would be "on the tune of over \$40,000."

The New York Times first reported the new memo from Hart, the lobbyist.

Separately Wednesday, an environmental group released EPA emails it had obtained from a freedom-of-information lawsuit showing a former lobbyist for foreign governments persistently pitching Pruitt aides on a proposed official trip to Australia last summer.

The emails "expose the fact that corporate lobbyists are orchestrating Pruitt's taxpayer-funded trips," said Michael Brune, executive director of the Sierra Club, which obtained the documents.

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DATE	FACILITY	ACTIVITY	TIME
May 7	American Consulate – Frankfurt Room H200	Pre-Retirement Seminar	11:00 am – 12:00 pm
	American Consulate – Frankfurt Cafeteria	Information Booth	12:30 pm – 2:00 pm
May 8	Ramstein Air Base Building 2120 Room 207	Pre-Retirement Seminar	11:30 am – 12:30 pm
	Ramstein Air Base Building 2120 Room 207	Information Booth	12:30 pm – 2:30 pm
	Ramstein High School Media Center	Information Booth	3:00 pm – 5:00 pm
May 10	American Embassy – London Human Resources Office	Pre-Retirement Seminar	11:00 am – 12:00 pm
	American Embassy – London Human Resources Office	Information Booth	12:30 pm – 2:00 pm
May 11	Royal Air Force Mildenhall Base Theater	Pre-Retirement Seminar and Information Booth	10:00 am – 11:00 am
	Royal Air Force Lakenheath Airman and Family Readiness Center (AFRC)	Pre-Retirement Seminar and Information Booth	1:45 pm – 3:00 pm
	Lakenheath Elementary School Cafeteria	Pre-Retirement Seminar and Information Booth	3:15 pm – 4:15 pm
May 14	American Embassy – Paris Executive Dining Room	Pre-Retirement Seminar	11:00 am – 12:00 pm
	American Embassy – Paris Executive Dining Room	Information Booth	12:30 pm – 2:00 pm



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## NATION

# Trump admits he repaid lawyer for 'Stormy' money

BY CATHERINE LUCEY  
AND JILL COLVIN  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump acknowledged Thursday he repaid his personal lawyer for hush money given to porn actress Stormy Daniels after claiming previously he didn't know about the payments. But the money, paid just before the 2016 election to stifle her claims of an affair, "had nothing to do with the campaign," the president tweeted.

Trump said his attorney Michael Cohen received a monthly retainer, which he used to pay the actress to sign an agreement not to talk about her allegations and thus "stop the false and extortionist accusations made by her about an affair."

Trump's tweets outlining the arrangement came after Rudy Giuliani, one of his attorneys, said Wednesday that Trump reimbursed Cohen for \$130,000 paid to Daniels. During an appearance on Fox News Channel's "Hannity," Giuliani said the money to repay Cohen had been "funneled ... through the law firm and the president repaid it."

Asked if Trump knew about the arrangement, Giuliani said: "He didn't know about the specifics of it, as far as I know. But he did know about the general arrangement, that Michael would take care of things like this, like I take care of things like this for my clients. I don't burden them with every single thing that comes along. These are busy people."

Speaking on "Fox and Friends" Thursday, Giuliani said Trump didn't know all the details until "maybe 10 days ago." While stressing that Trump denies the relationship, he said Cohen may have seen \$130,000 as "cheap."

"They said it wasn't true," Giu-

liani said. "However, imagine if that came out on October 15, 2016, in the middle of the last debate with Hillary Clinton. Cohen didn't even ask. Cohen made it go away. He did his job."

The comments appeared to contradict statements made by Trump several weeks ago, when he said he didn't know about the payment to Daniels. Giuliani later suggested to The Wall Street Journal that while Trump had repaid the \$130,000, Cohen had settled the payment to Daniels without Trump's knowledge at the time.

Giuliani's revelation was hardly a shock in the West Wing, where many aides assumed the president at least had knowledge of Cohen's work on his behalf. In briefings and media appearances, however, White House aides have sought to avoid staking out a clear position on the matter, directing reporters to Trump's own comments. Still, the way Giuliani announced it — on live television and imprecisely — surprised Trump staffers and raised fresh worries about the president's uneven legal team.

Law firms advance expenses for clients as a matter of course, so there's nothing inherently improper about a lawyer covering a particular payment and then being reimbursed for it. In this case, though, the client who apparently reimbursed the expense was running for president and the money was paid just days before the election. That raises questions about whether Cohen's law practice was functioning as a vendor for the campaign and the expense was therefore an unreported campaign expenditure. If so, that could be legally problematic.

Asked aboard Air Force One last month whether he knew about the payment, Trump said flatly, "No." Trump also said he didn't know why Cohen had made



STEPHANIE STRASBURG, PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE/AP

**Adult film actress Stormy Daniels is rushed into an adult venue, Blush, by a bodyguard as she arrives to perform in her show in downtown Pittsburgh on Wednesday.**

the payment or where he got the money.

In a phone interview with "Fox and Friends" last week, however, Trump appeared to muddy the waters, saying that Cohen represented him in the "crazy Stormy Daniels deal."

The White House referred questions to the president's personal legal team.

Giuliani, a former New York City mayor and ex-U.S. attorney who joined Trump's legal team last month, said the president had repaid Cohen over several months, indicating the payments continued through at least the presidential transition, if not into his presidency. He also said the payment "is going to turn out to be perfectly legal" because "that money was not campaign money."

No debt to Cohen is listed on Trump's personal financial disclosure form, which was certified on June 16, 2017.

Giuliani also described the payment to Daniels as "a very regular thing for lawyers to do."

Daniels' lawyer, Michael Avenatti, called the comment "a stunning revelation."

"Mr. Trump evidently has participated in a felony and there must be serious consequences for his conduct and his lies and deception to the American people," he said.

## Giuliani offers new explanation for firing of Comey

BY ERIC TUCKER  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump's explanation for why he fired FBI Director James Comey has shifted again.

Rudy Giuliani, Trump's new attorney, said in an interview on Fox News that Trump fired Comey last year "because Comey would not, among other things, say that he wasn't a target" of the special counsel's Russia investigation.



Giuliani

The explanation foreshadows a likely defense to the May 2017 dismissal, but it was at least the third offered by Trump and his advisers.

It also comes as the president's legal team is debating whether to allow Trump to be interviewed by special counsel Robert Mueller's team.

Mueller has shown an interest in questioning Trump about his motivation for firing Comey as his investigators probe possible obstruction of justice.

In announcing the firing, the White House initially cited the FBI director's handling of the probe into Democratic rival Hillary Clinton's emails. He later told NBC's Lester Holt that he was thinking of "this Russia thing."

On Fox News on Wednesday night, Giuliani said Trump did the Lester Holt interview "to explain to the American people the president was not the target of the investigation."

## Shake-up in Trump's legal team could usher in tougher stance

BY CHAD DAY AND ERIC TUCKER  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump hired a veteran attorney who represented Bill Clinton during his impeachment process as the White House shifted to a more aggressive approach to a special counsel investigation that has reached a critical stage.

The White House announced Wednesday the hiring of lawyer Emmet Flood after dismissing the retention of Ty Cobb, who for months has been the administration's point person dealing with special counsel Robert Mueller.

It's the latest shake-up for a legal team grappling with unresolved questions on how to protect the president from legal and political jeopardy in Mueller's Russia probe, which is nearing the one-year mark.

The replacement of Cobb with Flood appears to usher in a more adversarial stance toward the Mueller team as Trump's lawyers debate whether to make the president available for an interview with the special counsel and brace for the prospect of a grand jury subpoena if they refuse.

White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said that Cobb had been discussing the decision for weeks and would retire at the end of May and that Flood

would be joining the White House staff to "represent the president and the administration against the Russia witch hunt."

"I'm deeply grateful to the president and the chief of staff for this opportunity to serve my country," Cobb told The Associated Press on Wednesday night. "It's been a privilege, and I'm confident that the matter will be in good hands with Emmet Flood."

Although Cobb does not personally represent the president, he has functioned as a critical point person for Mueller's document and interview requests, coordinated dealings with prosecutors and worked closely with Trump's personal lawyers.

He repeatedly has urged cooperation with the investigation in hopes of bringing it to a quick end, and he has viewed his role as largely finished now that interviews with current and former White House officials have been completed.

Yet Flood, who was embroiled in the bitterly partisan Clinton impeachment fight 20 years ago, may well advocate a more confrontational approach. His law firm, Williams & Connolly, is one of Washington's most prominent, with a reputation for aggressive advocacy for its clients and a history of tangling with the government.

It also has represented senior White House officials, including presidents.



## NATION

# Officials ignore dioxin spread in Houston waterways

By LISE OLSEN  
Houston Chronicle

HIGHLANDS, Texas — Evelyn and Jerome Matula were still polka-dancing newlyweds in 1950 when they spotted a half-finished cottage in the woods along the San Jacinto River east of Houston. It seemed idyllic, with panoramic views and a sandy path to the river, where their three children and later their grandchildren fished.

Now the retired refinery worker and former educator fear their kin were poisoned by carcinogenic dioxin in the fish and the well water.

Decades ago, paper mill waste barged down the Houston Ship Channel was buried across the river. From their bluff today, the Matulas can see orange buoys marking a federal Superfund hazardous waste site established in 2008.

An agreement announced last month has cleared the way for the San Jacinto Waste Pits to finally be cleaned up. But dioxin damage already has spread far beyond the waste pits, the Houston Chronicle and The Associated Press found.

More than 30 hot spots — small sites where dioxin has settled — are scattered along the river and into Galveston Bay, according to University of Houston research conducted from 2001 to 2011 and pieced together by the news organizations. The sites are located in areas alongside parks and residential neighborhoods with thousands of homes. But the residents' wells or yards have not been tested by state health officials.

Details about the hot spots have not been made public by Texas environmental regulators, who used more than \$5 million in federal money to pay for the research. In 2012, they ended a fact-finding committee that oversaw the project and had proposed new standards for dioxin and PCBs that could have been costly

to corporate polluters.

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality refused to release the full results of the studies that identified the sources of dioxin and PCBs, even to academic researchers, Harris County officials and lawyers who later sued companies over environmental damage. The research funding ended in 2011, leaving unanswered questions about whether toxic damage spread even farther during hurricanes Ike and Harvey.

The university data linked hot spots primarily to three sources: the leaking waste pits, the original site of the paper mill in Pasadena and a major chemical complex in nearby Deer Park that is part of another Superfund site, records show. None has been cleaned up.

Under the Clean Water Act and state law, Texas authorities were required to address dioxin and PCBs in the river and the ship channel, waterways officially designated as "impaired." Setting such standards could have forced the responsible companies to clean up and upgrade contaminated stormwater and wastewater treatment.

All three TCEQ commissioners, appointed by the governor, declined interview requests.

Carl Masterson, a former Houston-Galveston Area Council staffer who for years served as a facilitator for the committee, said state regulators failed to do their duty. Once "the meetings were over, the project was over and the findings were in, the TCEQ should have approved" the committee's recommendations, he said.

In a statement, the agency said it's still working on "a document summarizing the source characterization of dioxin loads in the Houston Ship Channel/Upper Galveston Bay system."

The state's approach to dioxin followed the same pattern the Chronicle and AP previously identified in an investigation into air and water pollution releases from Hurricane Harvey. The news or-



PHOTOS BY ELIZABETH CONLEY, HOUSTON CHRONICLE/AP

Signs warn people not to fish or crab at River Terrace Park in Channelview, Texas, one of four county parks adjacent to hot spots in the San Jacinto River Waste Pits.



A resident works atop his boat trailer on March 1 at the public boat ramp at River Terrace Park.

ganizations found that state and federal regulators did little in response to massive releases of toxic pollution reported during and after Harvey's torrential rains.

Similarly, Texas regulators have not followed up on the dioxin research with additional testing to see if wells, parks or property also are contaminated by the pollutants that formed the toxic hotspots.

In the Matulas' case, their grandson Sean, 33, an emergency manager, said to have samples from the cottage's two wells tested after learning he suffers from long-hidden heart and kidney defects that may shorten his life.

His mother had moved to the cottage when she was pregnant with him. Recent test results showed that the family well used at the time he was born tested at

twice the level of dioxin considered healthy for human consumption.

"I have been told that I am lucky to be walking," Sean Matula said of conversations with his doctor.

The Texas Department of Health Services warned in 1990 that catfish and crabs in the San Jacinto and parts of upper Galveston Bay area contained so much dioxin that local seafood posed potential health risks — and banned its consumption by children and pregnant women.

The Environmental Protection Agency already had been funding initiatives to clean up the nation's impaired rivers and to identify sources of toxic substances in sediments and water that poisoned fish. The actions came in response to revelations in the 1980s that one of the most

dangerous dioxin forms had been unleashed into the environment from paper bleaching and chemical manufacturing.

Even in microscopic doses, those dioxin types have been linked to birth defects as well as cancer and reproductive problems.

Some of the most likely sources were two former paper mills and the huge chemical complex in Deer Park. Then a state park employee discovered sand pits near a highway bridge where pulp from the larger paper mill in Pasadena had been barged in the 1960s, buried and forgotten.

A video of the site taken about 2009 shows that fishermen and others had carved a path partly unmarked sand pits partially submerged by the river. Particles of what looks like an egg carton were shearing off the shore into the water.

Those crystalline fragments are examples of dioxin sediment, said Larry Koenig, who for 10 years was the TCEQ staff member assigned to the dioxin study.

He and other experts have estimated that about half the waste originally buried in pits already had escaped into the environment before the site was rediscovered.

Koenig retired in 2010, in part, he said, because of frustration over inaction on any proposed water quality standard.

A dozen hot spots identified by teams of University of Houston researchers were scattered around those pits.

## 1 body found after 9 officers hurt in blast at Conn. standoff

By DAVE COLLINS  
Associated Press

NORTH HAVEN, Conn. — A body was found in a Connecticut building after an explosion during a standoff with a man whose wife had called police to report domestic violence, officials said Thursday.

State Police Trooper Kelly Grant said nine officers were being treated for non-life-threatening injuries after the Wednesday night blast, and the remains of one unidentified person were found in a building in the home in North Haven on Thursday morning.

Grant said an autopsy was scheduled to confirm the identity of the body but no one was in custody.

North Haven Deputy Police Chief Jonathan Mulhern said a woman called police to report domestic violence before the explosion at a barn behind the home Wednesday night.

He said the woman was not at the scene when first responders arrived, and there was no hostage situation.

Officials said police tried for hours to coax the man outside, including talking to him with a bullhorn.

First Selectman Michael Freda told

WTIC-TV Wednesday night that police were trying to coax the man out of the house and to "calm the situation down."

"Then things took a turn for the worse with an explosion," he said.

All nine officers remained hospitalized Thursday. They were members of the regional tactical team and included five from East Haven, three from North Haven and one from Branford.

"They all did suffer injuries that were consistent with the blast," Mulhern said. "This impacted not only the North Haven Police Department, not only our community, but this is a far-reaching incident to

the other communities that serve the south central region."

Firefighters on Thursday continued to battle the barn fire that also damaged other structures and vehicles.

Residents near the home said on the police department's Facebook page that they heard the explosion and felt their own homes shake.

Additional police rushed to the scene as the fire raged, and sounds of smaller explosions also were heard.

Police were heard continuing to try to coax the man out of the house even after the explosion on Wednesday night.

## NATION

# Caravan organizer: Spotlight has negatives

By ELLIOT SPAGAT  
AND MARK STEVENSON  
Associated Press

**TIJUANA, Mexico**—The group that organized a monthlong caravan of Central Americans seeking asylum in the United States wanted to draw attention to the plight of people fleeing violence. If headlines are any measure, it has been a smashing success.

President Donald Trump and Cabinet members have called the caravan a deliberate attempt to overwhelm U.S. authorities and proof that more must be done to secure the border with Mexico, including construction of a wall. The rhetoric from the White House and its allies has also fueled an outpouring of support from Mexicans and Americans, bringing food and other staples, financial contributions, free legal advice and offers of a place to live in the U.S.

Roberto Corona, founder of Caravan Sin Fronteras, considered the intense spotlight a mixed blessing. It has raised public awareness of the toll of violence in Central America, but he said it

may sharpen a crackdown by the U.S. government.

"We want to show the humanity of this, not the politics," Corona said. "It's not about the wall."

Caravan organizers have been pilloried by the Trump administration. Vice President Mike Pence said during a California border tour Monday that the asylum-seekers were being "exploited by open border political activists and an agenda-driven media." U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions announced Wednesday he was sending more prosecutors and immigration judges to the border.

Trump has used the caravan to try to build support for his wall — even though the asylum-seekers generally turn themselves in to border inspectors — and to call for an end to so-called "catch-and-release" laws and court rulings that allow some asylum-seekers to remain free while their cases wind through immigration court, which can take several years.

The latest caravan marks an evolution of Easter season migrant protests that started around 2008, usually sponsored by Cath-



HANS-MAXIMO MUSELIN/AP

**A migrant reads a newspaper at a camp at the El Chaparral Border Crossing in Tijuana, Mexico, on Wednesday as migrants camped in a plaza while waiting for the U.S. to process their asylum claims.**

olic priests who ran shelters. For the first few years, they seldom did more than advance through the southern Mexican states of Chiapas and Oaxaca, often dressing in biblical garb and carrying crosses in processions meant to

echo Jesus' walk to his crucifixion and to protest the violence they suffered themselves.

They drew little attention, partly because thousands of Central Americans were openly streaming north through Mexico aboard

freight trains every day, headed for the U.S. border.

When Mexico cracked down on its southern border and migrants riding trains in 2014, the processions got a higher profile. They were a way to defy the government "blockade" of the trains and the highway checkpoints where buses were searched. The 2014 caravan was effectively broken up by Mexican police in the southern state of Tabasco.

Even after the government began to take a more hands-off approach, the caravans seldom got as far as Mexico City, though some smaller groups made it to the U.S. border.

Pueblo Sin Fronteras, which Corona created at Southern Methodist University in 2008 to ensure Latino day laborers in the Dallas-Fort Worth area got fair treatment from employers, participated in the 2014 caravan but didn't organize its own until last year. The loose-knit group has established two shelters in northern Mexico near the Arizona border but still has no office or paid employees, said Corona, who now lives in San Diego.

## Police plead for end to 'paintball wars' inspired by videos

Associated Press

**MILWAUKEE** — Police across the country have responded in recent weeks to hundreds of paintball fights, a trend that authorities say began around the time an Atlanta rapper began posting YouTube videos encouraging people to trade real guns for paintball weapons.

What started as an attempt to reduce gun violence has become anything but harmless. Police believe the phenomenon led to shooting deaths last month in Greensboro, N.C., and near Atlanta. The fast-moving paintballs have also injured bystanders caught in the crossfire and caused property damage in Milwaukee, Detroit and Atlanta.

"The message we want to put out is that while there's a movement to curb violence, this particular activity is a nuisance and it causes significant damage. And we strongly believe this particular activity led to the death of a young man," said Capt. Nathaniel Davis, of the Greensboro Police Department.

When officers responded to an April 20 report of a shooting, they found Zyuarius Shalom Quadre Bradley, 19, with gunshot wounds and paintball damage around his car. Police also found paintball guns and a mask. The investigation continues. No one has been arrested, Davis said.

A few weeks earlier, on April 1, a 3-year-old boy was killed in DeKalb County, Ga., when a teen-

ager shot a real gun at his attackers during a paintball fight. One of the bullets struck the boy, police said.

Greensboro police have responded to nearly 40 reports of paintball fights since the start of April.

The numbers are larger in bigger cities. Milwaukee police received at least 65 calls about paintball battles over the past week and arrested one person. Hours after Milwaukee officers held a news conference Monday to alert the public, a 32-year-old bicyclist was shot in the eye with a paintball.

During the news conference, police emphasized that paintballs can do serious damage on the streets because they travel up to

300 feet per second. At venues where people pay to play, participants shield themselves with face masks and other protective gear, including padded vests.

Police have not said conclusively what sparked the trend. But in Atlanta, one of the cities where paintball fights were first reported, the calls began near the end of March — around the same time that rapper 21 Savage began posting YouTube videos with the message "Guns Down, Paintballs Up," according to Sgt. John Chafee. In the videos, the rapper and his friends record themselves having "paintball wars."

21 Savage, whose real name is Shyama Bin Abraham-Joseph, did not respond to an email from The Associated Press.

## Transgender inmate suing agency says she was raped

Associated Press

**DENVER** — A transgender inmate who is suing Colorado's corrections agency says she was raped at a men's prison hours after a federal judge denied her request to block the prison from keeping her in a disciplinary unit, according to court records and the woman's attorney.

Lindsay Saunders-Velez, 20, filed a lawsuit in July saying she

was threatened, harassed and assaulted since entering Colorado's prison system last spring for violating her plea deal in a menacing case. She

called the state's prisons "discriminatory and dangerous" for transgender offenders. Last month, her lawyers asked a judge not to send Saunders-Velez to the Territorial Correctional Facility's "punishment pod" for a disciplinary infraction, saying she could end up with inmates who had tormented her. The judge said the lawsuit failed to prove an imminent risk, and rejected their request.

Saunders-Velez was attacked in the pod and spent more than a week in the infirmary before being moved back to a housing area of the Canon City prison this week, her lawyer Paula Greisen said.

## Report: Lawmaker 'failed to protect Senate' from husband

By BOB SALSBERG  
Associated Press

**BOSTON** — Former Massachusetts Senate President Stan Rosenberg "failed to protect the Senate" from his husband, who has been charged with sexual misconduct, an ethics report released Wednesday found, prompting calls for the lawmaker to resign.

The report prepared by independent investigators hired by the Senate Ethics Committee said that while Rosenberg did not violate any formal Senate rules, he showed a lack of judgment and violated the chamber's information technology policies by giving Bryon Hefner "unfettered access" to Rosenberg's Senate email account.

Republican Gov. Charlie Baker and Democratic Attorney General Maura Healey both called for Rosenberg, a Democrat, to resign following release of the report. A spokeswoman for Rosenberg said he would not be issuing any statements Wednesday evening.

Investigators said Hefner's access to Rosenberg's email began before he became president in 2015 and ended in March 2017 after staffers detected two instances of Hefner surreptitiously emailing public officials as if he was Rosenberg.

Rosenberg "knew or should have known Hefner had racially and sexually harassed Senate employees" and failed to address the issue adequately, the report said. Rosenberg, 68, stepped down

as Senate leader in December but remains in the chamber and has indicated he plans to run for re-election in his western Massachusetts district. The ethics committee recommended that Rosenberg not be allowed to serve in any leadership position or as a committee chairman at least through 2020.

Hefner, 30, pleaded not guilty in Suffolk Superior Court last month to charges of sexual assault, criminal lewdness and distributing nude photos without consent. He was released on personal recognizance and his attorney has said he would defend himself in court.

Rosenberg announced earlier this year that he and Hefner had separated.

"The special investigator's conclusions — which do not establish a violation of any formal Senate rule — nonetheless demonstrate a significant failure of judgment and leadership by Senator Rosenberg in his role as Senate President," the report stated. "That failure undermined the integrity of the Senate and had destructive consequences for the Senate and the people with business before it."

"Essentially, Senator Rosenberg failed to protect the Senate from his husband, whom he knew was disruptive, volatile and abusive," investigators concluded.

Sensors did not rule out the possibility of further sanctions — such as a formal reprimand or censure — as they continue to review the report in coming days.



Saunders-Velez

## NATION



JOHN LOCKER/AP

A person buys marijuana at the Essence cannabis dispensary in Las Vegas in July 2017.

## More businesses mellowing out over hiring pot smokers

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — FPI Management, a property company in California, wants to hire dozens of people. Factories from New Hampshire to Michigan need workers. Hotels in Las Vegas are desperate to fill jobs.

Those employers and many others are quietly taking what once would have been a radical step: They're dropping marijuana from the drug tests they require of prospective employees. Marijuana testing — a fixture at large American employers for at least 30 years — excludes too many potential workers, experts say, at a time when filling jobs is more challenging than it's been in nearly two decades.

"It has come out of nowhere," said Michael Clarkson, head of the drug testing practice at Ogletree Deakins, a law firm. "I have heard from lots of clients things like, 'I can't staff the third shift and test for marijuana.'"

Though still in its early stages, the shift away from marijuana testing appears likely to accelerate. More states are legalizing cannabis for recreational use. Michigan could become the 10th state to do so in November. Missouri appears on track to become the 30th state to allow medical pot use.

Medical marijuana users in Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island have won lawsuits in the past year against companies that rescinded job offers or fired workers because of positive tests for cannabis. Before last year, courts always had ruled in favor of employers.

The Trump administration also may be softening its resistance to legal marijuana. Labor Secretary Alexander Acosta suggested at a congressional hearing last month

that employers should take a "step back" on drug testing.

"We have all these Americans that are looking to work," Acosta said. "Are we aligning our ... drug testing policies with what's right for the workforce?"

There are no definitive data on how many companies conduct drug tests, though the Society for Human Resource Management found in a survey that 57 percent do so. Nor is there any recent data on how many have dropped marijuana from mandatory drug testing.

But interviews with hiring executives, employment lawyers and agencies that help employers fill jobs indicate that dropping marijuana testing is among the steps more companies are taking to expand their pool of applicants to fill a near-record level of openings.

Businesses are hiring more people without high school diplomas, for example, to the point where the unemployment rate for non-high school graduates has sunk more than a full percentage point in the past year to 5.5 percent. That's the steepest such drop for any educational group during that time. On Friday, the government is expected to issue another robust jobs report for April.

Excluding marijuana from testing marks the first major shift in workplace drug policies since employers began regularly screening applicants in the late 1980s. They did so after a federal law required that government contractors maintain drug-free workplaces. Many private businesses adopted their own mandatory drug testing of applicants.

Most businesses that have dropped marijuana tests continue to screen for cocaine, opiates, heroin and other drugs. But James Reidy, an employment

lawyer in New Hampshire, said companies are thinking harder about the types of jobs that realistically should require marijuana tests. If a manufacturing worker, for instance, isn't driving a forklift or operating industrial machinery, employers may deem a marijuana test unnecessary.

"Employers are saying, 'We have a thin labor pool,'" Reidy said. "So are we going to test and exclude a whole group of people? Or can we assume some risks, as long as they're not impaired at work?"

Yet many companies are reluctant to acknowledge publicly that they've dropped marijuana testing.

"This is going to become the new don't ask, don't tell," Reidy said.

In most states that have legalized marijuana, like Colorado, businesses still can, if they wish, fire workers who test positive. On the other hand, Maine, which also legalized the drug, became the first state to bar companies from firing or refusing to hire someone for using marijuana outside work.

Companies in labor-intensive industries — hoteliers and home health care providers and employers with many warehouse and assembly jobs — are most likely to drop marijuana testing. By contrast, businesses that contract with the government or that are in regulated industries, like air travel, or that have safety concerns involving machinery are continuing marijuana tests, employment lawyers say. Federal regulations require the testing of pilots, train operators and other key transportation workers.

Dropping marijuana testing is more common among employers in the nine states, along with the District of Columbia, that have legalized pot for recreational use.

## Amid strike, Ariz. officials OK pay raise for teachers

By BOB CHRISTIE  
AND MELISSA DANIELS

PHOENIX — Arizona lawmakers pulled an all-nighter to enact a budget Thursday that provides big raises for many of the state's striking teachers, and Gov. Doug Ducey signed the teacher funding plan while the House continued debating the rest of the state's \$10.4 billion budget plan.

The Senate passed the teacher raise legislation just before dawn, and the Republican governor immediately signed off on education funding that will give teachers a 9 percent raise in the fall and 5 percent in each of the coming two years. The raises will cost about \$300 million in the coming year alone.

Striking teachers had held watch at the state Capitol all night, packing the House and Senate galleries and holding a candlelight vigil on the legislative courtyard.

Organizers of the unprecedented strike that shut down schools for most of the state's 1.1 million public school students had called for teachers to go back to class Thursday if the budget passed. But many large school districts ended up canceling classes for a sixth straight day as the lawmakers worked through the night Wednesday into Thursday.

Shortly after the budget passed, the school district spanning the large Scottsdale suburb of Phoenix announced that schools would reopen on Friday.

The education funding package fell short of teachers' demands for more overall school funding, a return to pre-recession funding levels, regular raises, competitive

pay for support staff and no more tax cuts until per-pupil funding reaches the national average. Big education funding cuts over a decade have left Arizona teachers among the lowest paid in the country, as is its overall school funding.

Ducey, a Republican, praised the teacher pay-and-education funding package.

He said in a statement that "Arizona teachers have earned a raise, and this plan delivers."

The budget package also provides the state's schools with a partial restoration of nearly \$400 million in recession-era cuts, with a promise to restore the rest in five years. Other cuts remain in place.

Minority Democrats mainly voted against the budget plan, generating criticism from Republicans.

"You know, talk is pretty cheap — it's your vote that counts," Republican Rep. Anthony Kern said. "If Republicans voted with Democrats tonight, you would be walking away with zero. With zero. You would not have a teacher pay increase, you would not have a 20 percent increase if Republicans voted with Democrats tonight."

Democratic Rep. Reginald Boldin said Republicans cut education budgets for years.

"It's amazing that we sit here and we try to call ourselves a hero after we've set the house on fire," Boldin said.

"You can't set a house on fire, call 911 and claim to be a hero. And that's what this body has done."

## Black men settle with Starbucks over arrest

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Two black men arrested for sitting at a Philadelphia Starbucks without ordering anything settled with the world's biggest coffee shop chain Wednesday for an undisclosed sum and an offer of free college education.

Separately, they reached a deal with the city for a symbolic \$1 each and a promise from officials to set up a \$200,000 program for young entrepreneurs.

The men portrayed the twin settlements as an effort to make sure something positive came out of the April 12 incident, which touched off a furor around the U.S. over racial profiling.

"We thought long and hard about it, and we feel like this is the

best way to see that change that we want to see," said Donte Robinson, one of those arrested.

"It's not a right-now thing that's good for right now, but I feel like we will see the true change over time."

Business partners Robinson and Rashon Nelson, both 23, were laid away in handcuffs and were accused of trespassing last month after the manager of a Starbucks in the city's well-to-do Rittenhouse Square neighborhood called police, saying the men refused to buy anything or to leave. After spending hours in jail, they were released and no charges were filed.

The men said they were there to wait for a meeting with a third man about a potential real estate opportunity.



## NATION



PHOTOS PROVIDED BY THE LAS VEGAS METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT/AP

This photo from police officer body camera footage on Oct. 1, 2017, shows officers as they breach Stephen Paddock's room during a mass shooting at the Mandalay Bay Hotel in Las Vegas.

## Video: Gamblers unalarmed amid Las Vegas shooting

By KEN RITTER  
AND MICHAEL BALSAMO  
Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — The jangly music of slot machines echoed through the packed room as police officers methodically made their way across the casino floor with their guns drawn. But the hustle and bustle of Las Vegas went on and gamblers just continued tugging at slot handles, seemingly unaware that just upstairs a man was unleashing a hail of gunfire in the deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history.

"There's a shooter! He's shot and killed multiple people already," a police officer shouted as he passed bystanders, on the hunt for the man who killed 58 people in his high-rise hotel suite.

The officers carefully worked their way up to the 32nd floor of the Mandalay Bay casino-hotel. As they approached the shooter's suite from a stairwell, another officer yelled out, "Breach! Breach! Breach!" before a loud bang and a fire alarm began to sound.

Inside, they found Stephen Paddock lying in a pool of his own blood with rifles strewn about. One officer pulled a high-powered rifle from a window ledge as the other officers discovered an arsenal of weapons, cameras in the peepholes, a homemade gas mask and venting system and even a vibrator.

Now, more than seven months after the Oct. 1 massacre, police are no closer to answering the key question in the investigation: What led the retired accountant and high-stakes gambler to unleash his deadly barrage of bullets?

On Wednesday, police released hours of footage from two officers' body-worn cameras in



This photo from police officer body camera footage shows officers searching hallways at the Mandalay Bay Hotel.

response to a lawsuit by The Associated Press and other news organizations.

The videos show officers inside Paddock's room looking behind curtains, and one grabbing an assault-style rifle from the ledge of a broken window. The gunman's body is seen on his back, clad in dark pants and a long-sleeved shirt with a glove on his left hand. A pool of blood stains the carpet near his head as a police SWAT officer walks past.

Officers noted the amount of firepower Paddock had — more than 10 high-powered firearms. Others talked about Paddock "blasting out the window" and pointed to "a whole suitcase full of loaded AK mags."

Investigators believe Paddock, 64, acted alone in the attack and fatally shot himself before officers burst through the door of his hotel suite.

The body camera video that was released Wednesday, which totals about 2½ hours, represents

a sample of hundreds of hours of body-camera recordings and does not provide a complete view of everything police discovered when they entered Paddock's suite.

The footage doesn't show what the first officer through the door saw because he didn't activate his body camera.

The revelation that the officer failed to activate his camera raised questions about whether officers followed department policy. The department requires officers with body cameras to activate them during calls that lead to interaction with residents and searches.

Police refused to say whether the officer would be disciplined for violating department policy.

The AP and other media outlets sued to obtain videos, 911 recordings, evidence logs and interview reports to shed light on the response by public agencies, emergency workers and hotel officials while Paddock fired for more than 10 minutes.

## Wife: 'mob justice, not real justice' convicted Cosby

By MICHAEL R. SISAK  
Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Bill Cosby's wife called Thursday for a criminal investigation into the suburban Philadelphia prosecutor behind his sexual assault conviction, saying the case that could put the 80-year-old comedian into prison for the rest of his life was "mob justice, not real justice" and a "tragedy" that must be undone.

Camille Cosby made her first comments on the verdict in a three-page statement sent to the media through a family spokesman a week after a jury found her husband of 54 years guilty on three counts of aggravated indecent assault.

She said chief accuser Andrea Constand was a liar whose testimony about being drugged and molested at Cosby's home in January 2004 was "riddled with innumerable, dishonest contradictions." She echoed Cosby's lawyers, who contended that Constand framed him to score a big payday.

Constand's lawyer bristled at the statement and asked, "why would any reputable outlet publish that?"

"Twelve honorable jurors — peers of Cosby — have spoken," lawyer Dolores Troiani said. "There is nothing else that needs to be said."

Constand said in a tweet last week that "Truth prevails."

Camille Cosby compared the dozens of other women who've accused her husband to a "lynch mob" spurred on by the media's "frenzied, relentless demonization" of him.

She compared his treatment to that of Emmett Till, the black teenager who was kidnapped and

murdered after witnesses said he whistled at a white woman in a Mississippi grocery store in 1955. Constand is white.

Camille Cosby said her husband's prosecution was politically motivated, repeating his team's contention that he had been a pawn in a heated race for district attorney.

Montgomery County District Attorney Kevin Steele attacked opponent Bruce Castor in campaign ads over his decision not to charge Cosby in 2005 and announced Cosby's arrest a month after winning the November 2015 election.

She said Steele and his team were "exploitive and corrupt" and that their "primary purpose is to advance themselves professionally and economically at the expense of Mr. Cosby's life."

"If they can do this to Mr. Cosby, they can do so to anyone," she said.

Steele's office did not immediately respond to a message seeking comment.

Camille Cosby, 74, stayed away from both of her husband's trials, except for the defense's closing arguments.

Before the jury came in last week, she went to the defense table and put her arm around Cosby, who is legally blind. They embraced, smiled and chatted, and he gave her a peck on the cheek. When it was the prosecution's turn to argue, she left the courtroom and Constand entered.

Cosby is on house arrest while awaiting sentencing.

The Associated Press does not typically identify people who say they are victims of sexual assault unless they grant permission, as Constand has done.

## Tesla cash burn ramps up; CEO predicts profit ahead

Associated Press

DETROIT — Tesla's record net loss in the first quarter and fast burn through millions of dollars is raising questions about the company's ability to pay all its bills.

CEO Elon Musk conceded that criticism is valid but said during a sometimes tense conference call with analysts Wednesday that it's "quite likely" Tesla will make money and have positive cash flow in the third quarter.

"It's high time we became profitable," said Musk, who also promised restructuring this month to achieve profit goals.

"The truth is you're not a real company until you are, frankly. That's our focus right now."

Wednesday's results showed Tesla tearing through \$745.3 million in cash in the first quarter, due largely to the slow production ramp-up of the Model 3 mass-market electric sedan. That could put pressure on the company to borrow more or to sell additional shares to raise more cash.

When asked by an analyst on a conference call about important reservations for the Model 3, Musk cut him off, calling the questions dry and "not cool." He then allowed multiple questions from a person via YouTube.

Steele began the quarter with \$3.96 billion in cash and equivalents, but that fell to \$3.22 billion by quarter's end.

## EUROPE

# Anti-Semitism rises with refugee influx in Germany

By GRIFF WITTE  
AND LUISA BECK

The Washington Post

BERLIN — Bullied students. Crude rap lyrics. An ugly confrontation on an upmarket city street.

In another country — one less attuned to the horrors wrought by anti-Semitism — evidence that the scourge is once again growing might have been ignored.

But this is Germany, a nation that nearly annihilated an entire continent's Jewish population.

After a series of high-profile incidents, the country isn't waiting to sound the alarm on a pattern of rising hatred toward Jews.

In recent days, demonstrators have filled the streets, a first-ever national coordinator to combat anti-Semitism has taken up his post, and officials from Chancellor Angela Merkel on down have spoken out.

Germany is also doing something difficult for a country that sees itself as the open and tolerant antidote to the prejudice-driven murder machine it once was: acknowledging that the problem's resurgence has been fueled not only by the far right, whose views have increasingly infiltrated the mainstream, but also in significant part by Muslims, including refugees.

"The nature of anti-Semitism in Germany is definitely changing," said Sergey Lagodinsky, a member of the assembly of the Jewish community in Berlin. "We're having a lot more violent, everyday confrontations that come through incidents with immigrants."

That's not an easy admission in Germany, where Merkel led the push three years ago to open the country to more than 1 million asylum-seekers, many of them Muslims fleeing conflict. At the time the move was widely seen, at least in part, as a grand gesture of atonement for the worst crimes of German history.

Since then, Merkel has rallied the nation around the slogan "We can do it," brushing away suggestions that Germany will suffer for its generosity.

But she's also been forced to concede the link between the new arrivals and creeping anti-Semitism. This month, she told an Israeli broadcaster that Germany was confronting "a new phenomenon" as refugees "bring another form of anti-Semitism into the country."

That's something critics have warned of for years, given that many of those who arrived in Germany came from nations where anti-Semitism is widespread, including Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan. Officials, analysts and Jewish and Muslim leaders all say Germany has been slow to recognize the risks.

"The cultural dimension that is linked with the influx was always underestimated," said Felix Klein, who started work this month as the federal government's point person for combating anti-Semitism. "Now we have to deal with it."

The first step, Klein said, is to understand the scale. But the data are surprisingly limited, and what is available has been called into question.

Police statistics, for instance, show that about 90 percent of the anti-Semitic cases nationwide are believed to have been carried out by followers of the far right — traditionally the bastion of prejudice toward Jews in Germany.

But government officials and Jewish leaders doubt that figure, citing a default designation of "far right" when the perpetrator isn't known. The government also has no reliable means of tracking anti-Semitism that falls below the level of the criminal — something Klein said he's determined to change.

A survey of victims of anti-Semitism commissioned last year by

the German Parliament concluded that Muslims were most often identified as the perpetrators. A separate study found comparatively high levels of anti-Semitic thinking among refugees with a Middle Eastern or North African background.

The number of reported anti-Semitic incidents in Germany has remained fairly steady over the past decade at around 1,500 every year although researchers think the actual numbers are much higher, said Uffa Jensen, a professor at the Technical University of Berlin. One recent survey found that 70 percent of Jews said they would not report an anti-Semitic incident because they feared the consequences.

Even if the overall numbers are relatively stable, the behavior behind the data has changed, said Josef Schuster, head of the Central Council of Jews in Germany.

"The incidents are more aggressive, more pronounced and directly affect Jewish people with insults or attacks," Schuster said.

German schoolchildren have reported the word "Jew" being thrown around as a taunt on the playground. Some have said they have been threatened with death.

Beyond the bullying, two high-profile instances of anti-Semitism have spawned outrage in recent weeks.

A German rap duo won the top honor at the country's most prestigious music awards last month for an album that included lyrics boasting of bodies "more defined than those of Auschwitz inmates" and threatening to "make another Holocaust." Amid a backlash, the awards program was terminated.

Meanwhile, cellphone video footage emerged of an assailant shouting anti-Semitic slurs and whipping a belt against a man wearing a kippa, or Jewish prayer cap. Police arrested a 19-year-old



HENNING KAISER, DPA/AP

**Men wear Jewish skullcaps, or kippa, at a demonstration last week against anti-Semitism in Cologne, Germany.**

Syrian refugee in connection with the assault, which took place in the trendy Berlin neighborhood of Prenzlauer Berg.

"When I watched the video, I looked into his eyes. I don't understand how a young man can be so filled with hate," said Sigmund Ksberg, anti-Semitism commissioner for the Jewish community of Berlin. Ksberg deals with hundreds of incidents each year and said a substantial majority of the cases involve an alleged Muslim perpetrator.

Far-right assailants are less common, he said. That makes sense, if only for geographic reasons. Germany's Muslim and Jewish communities are both concentrated in big cities, such as Berlin. Far-right supporters are more likely to live in the countryside.

The German far right has been emboldened lately, winning seats in Parliament last fall — the first time that's happened since the 1950s. Authorities say elements of the far right have grown more vocal in their anti-Semitism. But they have been even louder in denouncing Muslims, capitalizing on resentment toward Merkel's decision to let in the refugees.

Ironically, far-right politicians have used concerns about anti-Semitism to make their case against the refugees — a logic that many Jewish leaders reject.

"The world doesn't revolve around Jews. If people are dying in Syria, you can't let them die because you may face more anti-

Semitism in a couple years," said Lagodinsky.

Rather than bar refugees, Lagodinsky said the solution starts with being more honest in talking about the problem — something he said mainstream German society is often afraid to do for fear of targeting a Muslim minority population that already feels under siege.

Aiman Mazyek, for one, welcomes the conversation. The president of the Central Council of Muslims in Germany emphasized that it's only a small minority of Muslims who are taking part in anti-Semitic acts. But he said there is no doubt that some newcomers — and some who have been here far longer — have failed to integrate into a society that has put "Never Again" at its core.

"If people come here and want to integrate, they need to understand the DNA of the country. And part of that DNA is the legacy of the Holocaust," he said.

Mazyek said it will take effort to educate people who may have grown up in countries where anti-Semitic rhetoric is rampant and others who may have been raised in Germany but who nonetheless feel drawn into "the unresolved conflicts of the Middle East."

But he said there is also reason for optimism.

"Many of them came from countries where there was dictatorship, where they weren't free. There's the potential there for much more empathy when they visit a concentration camp," he said.

# IT'S ARRIVED!

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## WORLD



KHALIL SENOSI/AP

**Non-Muslim teachers who had to leave their posts camp out April 27 in the headquarters of the Kenya National Union of Teachers in Nairobi, Kenya.**

## Teachers flee, schools close in Kenya after al-Shabab attacks

By Tom Oduka  
Associated Press

**NAIROBI, Kenya** — Every school day, Abdurizack Hussein Bashir rises at dawn for a 5-mile trek through a dangerous forest where he sometimes faces harassment by Kenyan army patrols hunting down extremists.

Now the 12-year-old's dream to become a doctor is threatened. Attacks by the al-Qaida-linked al-Shabab against non-Muslims have forced the transfer of hundreds of teachers from the border area with Somalia, where the extremist group is based. Schools have closed and thousands of children are affected.

At least 224 primary schools and 42 secondary schools in Wajir County can no longer function after nonlocal teachers fled. The exodus was caused by the Feb. 16 al-Shabab attack on a primary school in which two non-Muslim teachers were killed.

Kenya's Teachers Service Commission transferred 329 teachers elsewhere for their safety. Many

others left on their own. In all, 917 non-Muslim primary school teachers have left the region.

It is the largest-ever mass exodus of teachers from the region, observers say.

Analysts say the extremist group threatens gains in education in a region that until recently was the most marginalized in Kenya and has been described as a hotbed of recruitment for extremist groups, which oppose Western education. Children out of school become easy targets.

For al-Shabab, the closure of schools will be seen as "a success," said Abdullahi Boru Halakhe, an expert in countering violent extremism.

"Schools and education is one of the antidotes against the narratives of the (extremist) group. Thus, if you close the school, how else can you build a counternarrative?" he asked.

Al-Shabab has carried out a wave of attacks in Kenya since 2011, calling it retribution for the troops Kenya sent to Somalia to fight the extremists.

# Saudi Arabia confirms arrival of Gitmo prisoner

By Abdullah Al-Shihri  
Associated Press

**RIYADH, Saudi Arabia** — Saudi Arabia confirmed on Thursday the arrival of a prisoner who was sent back to the kingdom from the Guantanamo Bay detention center to serve out the remainder of his 13-year sentence.

Ahmed Mohammed al-Darbi is the first detainee to leave the U.S. base in Cuba since President Donald Trump took office.

The Pentagon announced the transfer in a brief statement Wednesday.

Saudi state security said al-Darbi arrived just before midnight Wednesday and that his relatives had been notified.

After serving the remainder of his sentence, about nine years, al-Darbi will spend time in a Saudi rehabilitation center for convicted extremists that aims to help them assimilate back into society through frequent visits with relatives, religious counseling with moderate clerics, art therapy and even cash assistance to help them out once.

There have been about 140 de-

tainees transferred from Guantanamo Bay to Saudi Arabia. al-Darbi's transfer brings the number of men still held at Guantanamo to 40.

The agreement to repatriate al-Darbi was made under President Barack Obama, whose administration had hoped eventually to close the detention center. Trump reversed that policy and has vowed to continue using the center.

Al-Darbi pleaded guilty before a military commission at the U.S. base in Cuba in 2014 to charges stemming from an al-Qaida attack on a French oil tanker. His plea deal included extensive testimony against others held at Guantanamo.

His charges included conspiracy, attacking civilian objects, terrorism and aiding the enemy for helping to arrange the 2002 al-Qaida attack on the French tanker MV Limburg. The attack, which killed a Bulgarian crewmember, happened after al-Darbi was already in U.S. custody and was cooperating with authorities, according to court documents.

Al-Darbi, 43, was captured at

an airport in Azerbaijan in June 2002 and was taken to the U.S. base in Bagram, Afghanistan. He has testified to being kept in solitary confinement, strung up from a door in shackles, deprived of sleep and subjected to other forms of abuse as part of his early interrogation.

His lead defense counsel, Ramzi Kassem, said the transfer was the culmination of "16 long and painful years in captivity" by the U.S. at Guantanamo and in Afghanistan, with his children growing up without him and his own father dying.

In a statement released by Kassem, who was part of a legal team that included two military officers, al-Darbi described what he expected to be an emotional reunion with his family in Saudi Arabia. "I cannot thank enough my wife and our children for their patience and their love. They waited sixteen years for my return," he said.

"Looking at what lies ahead, I feel a mixture of excitement, disbelief and fear. I've never been a father. I've been here at Guantanamo. I've never held my son."

## At least 91 dead, 160 hurt in Indian storm

Associated Press

**LUCKNOW, India** — A powerful dust storm and rain swept parts of north and western India overnight, causing houses to collapse, toppling trees and leaving at least 91 people dead and more than 160 injured, officials said Thursday.

The devastation was particularly severe Wednesday night in Agra, the northern Indian city where the white marble Taj

Mahal is located. Forty-three people died there as the wind speed touched 80 mph, said Relief Commissioner Sanjay Kumar, of Uttar Pradesh state.

There was no damage to the monument.

At least 64 people died and another 67 were injured in northern Uttar Pradesh state, Kumar said.

In the western state of Rajasthan, the Press Trust of India news agency said that 27

others died and another 100 were injured. Most deaths were caused by houses collapsing and lightning.

The rainstorm caught people by surprise as the monsoon season is still more than six weeks away.

Uprooted trees flattened mud huts of the poor, Kumar said. Electricity supply and telephone lines were snapped in parts of Uttar Pradesh state, he said.

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AROUND THE WORLD



# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## New ice cream tastes like a pork roll

**NJ** FREDON TOWNSHIP — A New Jersey dairy farm said it hopes customers will like its new ice cream flavor incorporating another regional favorite food — pork roll.

Windy Brow Farms in Fredon Township said it has introduced the state's first "Taylor ham ice cream," referring to the specific brand of pork roll famous to New Jersey residents. The specialty dessert mixes in French toast with actual pieces of pork roll.

Windy Brow Managing Partner Jake Hunt noted that a pork-only ice cream would be "gross," so he added the maple and French toast element to give it a sweet and salty balance.

## Man shoots smoke detector to silence it

**VT** BARTON — A Vermont man is facing charges that he used a shotgun to silence a smoke detector in the kitchen of his apartment.

Police said two shots fired Monday afternoon from the 20-gauge shotgun owned by Leroy Mason, 68, of Barton, hit the adjoining wall of an occupied apartment.

Police said Mason has complained about frequent false alarms from his smoke detector, and he was upset five crews wouldn't relocate it so he "took it upon himself to relocate the smoke detector, and shot it with the shotgun."

Emergency personnel said they took the shotgun from Mason, who then allegedly pointed a handgun at them while demanding his shotgun. Emergency crews disarmed Mason.

## Fingerprint in Play-Doh leads to suspect

**MA** LEICESTER — A Massachusetts police department said a fingerprint left in a hunk of Play-Doh led them to a shoplifting suspect.

Leicester police responded to Walmart on Dec. 11 after an employee found several electronic anti-theft devices that had been covered in the malleable clay-like toy in an apparent attempt to neutralize them.

The attempt to disable the spin-disc devices failed. He did, however, leave a fingerprint impression in the Play-Doh.

Police charged Dennis Jackson, 55, with unlawful removal of an anti-theft device.

## Man accused in attack and underwear theft

**AL** TUSCALOOSA — Police said a University of Alabama student pulled down a woman's pants while she was jogging near the campus and later broke into a nearby home and stole women's underwear.

Tuscaloosa police Capt. Brad Mason told news outlets the woman struggled with the man Monday and was able to escape.

Jackson said another woman chased the man from her home

## THE CENSUS

**9** The number of new Dodge Ram pickups stolen from a truck plant in Warren, Mich., north of Detroit. WXYZ-TV reported that the vehicles were taken before 4 a.m. Thursday from a storage lot at the plant in Warren. Police said the trucks had recently come off the assembly line and had not yet received titles. The pickups are valued at about \$30,000 each.



MATT ROURE/AP

## Don't look down

A window washer rappels down the side of a building in Philadelphia on Wednesday.

Tuesday after he took underwear. Police arrested John Everett Threadgill.

Mason said Threadgill, 19, admitted to both crimes during an interview with officers.

## Armored truck dumps cash on highway

**IN** INDIANAPOLIS — The back doors of a Brinks armored truck swung open along a highway in Indianapolis, sending hundreds of thousands of dollars in cash falling onto the highway's lanes.

Sgt. John Perrine said the truck lost some of its cargo along Interstate 70 on Wednesday when the truck's back doors opened up. Officers remained at the scene about 90 minutes later collecting the money along I-70.

The Indianapolis Star reported state troopers are investigating the incident and also looking into tips about motorists who stopped along the highway to pick up some of the cash.

Perrine said anyone who picked up some of the money can be charged with theft.

## Naked Bike Ride to feature body-painting

**PA** PHILADELPHIA — The City of Brotherly Love apparently loves getting naked.

The annual ride of naked bicyclists through Philadelphia's streets has been so popular organizers are teaming up with the artist behind New York City's Bodypainting Day to launch another body-painting event. Philly Bodypainting Day will debut Sept. 8, the day of the 10th Philly Naked Bike Ride.

The ride protests dependence on fossil fuels, advocates for bike safety and promotes positive body image. About 3,000 cyclists and artists from around the country are expected.

## Police 'pawfficer' gets name, rank on force

**MI** TROY — A suburban Detroit police department has created a new rank of "pawfficer" for the cat that has joined the force.

The Troy police department announced Tuesday the kitty will be named Badges. That was the winning name from a Twitter poll, narrowly beating out Donut.

The department added the cat to its ranks last month after auditioning five felines from the Michigan Humane Society.

Badges will be used for therapeutic purposes and make public appearances.

## Jersey gives student geography lesson

**MA** BOSTON — An American college student who didn't know the difference between the U.S. state of New Jersey and the British Channel Island of Jersey is clear about the distinction now.

Joe Hill, of Plymouth, Mass., returned Sunday from a vacation on the island off the coast of France that was paid for by Jersey residents.

The Boston Globe reported it started when Hill joined a Facebook group called "Good or Bad Jersey Businesses" he assumed was about the U.S. state.

He posted a comment on the page that garnered 1,500 likes.

Jersey resident Alex Dolan saw it and launched a crowdfunding effort that raised enough money to send Hill and his girlfriend to the island.

## Ramps return to Capitol pool to help ducklings

**DC** WASHINGTON — Two ramps made to keep ducklings from drowning at the Capitol Reflecting Pool in Washington were brought back this spring.

City Wildlife President Anne Lewis said minor issues with the ramps have been worked out. Sides to the ramps were added to keep the ducklings from falling over, and more traction has been added to the surface to keep them from slipping.

WTOP-FM reported that City Wildlife worked with Architect of the Capitol to come up with the ramp after getting complaints from the public of seeing ducklings in trouble and drowning.

From wire reports

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# BUSINESS/WEATHER

## Data firm tied to privacy scandal declares bankruptcy

By MAE ANDERSON  
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Cambridge Analytica, the Trump-affiliated data firm at the center of Facebook's worst privacy scandal in history, is declaring bankruptcy and shutting down.

The London firm blamed "unfairly negative media coverage" and said it has been "vilified" for actions it says are both legal and widely accepted as part of online advertising.

Cambridge Analytica said it has filed papers to begin insolvency proceedings in the U.K. and will seek bankruptcy protection in a federal court in New York.

"The siege of media coverage has driven away virtually all of the company's customers and suppliers," Cambridge Analytica said in a statement. "As a result, it has been determined that it is no longer viable to continue operating the business."

Facebook said it will keep looking into data misuse by Cambridge Analytica even though the firm is closing down. And Jeff Chester, of the Center for Digital Democracy, a digital advocacy group in Washington, said critics of Facebook's privacy practices won't go away just because Cambridge Analytica has.



KIRSTY O'CONNOR, PA/AP

**Data firm Cambridge Analytica, based in central London, is declaring bankruptcy and closing.**

"Cambridge Analytica's practices, although it crossed ethical boundaries, is really emblematic of how data-driven digital marketing occurs worldwide," Chester said. "Rather than rejoicing that a bad actor has met its just reward, we should recognize that

many more Cambridge Analytica-like companies are operating in the conjoined commercial and political marketplace." Cambridge Analytica, whose clients included Donald Trump's 2016 presidential campaign, sought information on Facebook

users to build psychological profiles on a large portion of the U.S. electorate.

The company was able to amass the database quickly with the help of an app that purported to be a personality test. The app collected data on tens of millions of people and their Facebook friends, even those who did not download the app themselves.

Facebook has since tightened its privacy restrictions, and CEO Mark Zuckerberg testified before Congress. Facebook also has suspended other companies for using similar tactics. One is Cubeyou, which makes personality quizzes. That company has said it did nothing wrong and is seeking reinstatement.

Cambridge Analytica suspended CEO Alexander Nix in March pending an investigation after Nix boasted of various unsavory services to an undercover reporter for Britain's Channel 4 News. Channel 4 News broadcast clips showed Nix saying his data-mining firm played a major role in securing Trump's victory in the 2016 presidential elections.

Acting CEO Alexander Tayler also stepped down in April and returned to his previous post as chief data officer.

Cambridge has denied wrongdoing, and Trump's campaign

has said it didn't use Cambridge's data. On Wednesday, Cambridge Analytica said an outside investigation it commissioned concluded the allegations were not "borne out by the facts."

Facebook's audit of the firm has been suspended while U.K. regulators conduct their own probe. But Facebook says Cambridge Analytica's decision to close "doesn't change our commitment and determination to understand exactly what happened and make sure it doesn't happen again."

### EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (May 4)	\$1.2305
Dollar buys (May 4)	69.8127
British pound (May 4)	\$1.40
Japanese yen (May 4)	105.00
South Korean won (May 4)	1,050.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3771
British pound	\$1.3584
Canada (Dollar)	1.2850
China (Yuan)	6.3506
Denmark (Krone)	6.2222
Egypt (Pound)	17.6975
Euro	\$1.1973/0.8352
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.8496
Hungary (Forint)	322.47
Israel (Shekel)	3.6273
Japan (Yen)	109.36
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3014
Norway (Krone)	8.0606
Philippines (Peso)	51.73
Poland (Zloty)	3.56
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7498
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3319
South Korea (Won)	1,077.41
Switzerland (Franc)	0.8992
Thailand (Baht)	31.66
Turkey (Lira)	4.2021

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

### INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	4.75
Discount rate	2.25
Federal funds market rate	0.69
3-month bill	1.835
30-year bond	3.15

### EURO GAS PRICES

Country	Super	Euro unleaded	Super plus	Diesel
Germany	\$3.135	\$3.406	\$3.642	\$4.446
Change in price	+4.8 cents	+4.2 cents	+4.3 cents	+2.4 cents
Netherlands	--	\$3.741	\$3.877	\$3.829
Change in price	--	+2.3 cents	+1.6 cents	+2.5 cents
U.K.	--	\$3.351	\$3.587	\$3.391
Change in price	--	+4.2 cents	+4.3 cents	+2.4 cents
Azores	--	--	\$3.585	--
Change in price	--	--	+4.3 cents	--
Belgium	--	\$3.124	\$3.427	\$3.382
Change in price	--	+2.4 cents	+9.3 cents	+8.8 cents
Turkey	--	--	\$3.463	\$3.267
Change in price	--	--	+4.3 cents	+2.4 cents
Italy	\$4.050	--	--	\$4.088
Change in price	+7.6 cents	--	--	+7.6 cents

### PACIFIC GAS PRICES

Country	Unleaded	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel
Japan	--	\$3.389	--	\$3.189
Change in price	--	+5.0 cents	--	+2.0 cents
Okhawa	\$2.879	--	--	\$3.189
Change in price	+5.0 cents	--	--	+2.0 cents
South Korea	\$2.919	\$3.189	\$3.419	\$3.229
Change in price	+5.0 cents	+5.0 cents	+4.0 cents	+3.0 cents
Guam	\$2.909**	\$3.179	\$3.419	--
Change in price	+5.0 cents	+4.0 cents	--	--

\* Diesel EFD \*\* Midgrade  
For the week of May 5-11

### MARKET WATCH

May 2, 2018	
Dow Jones	-174.07
Industrials	23,924.98
Nasdaq composite	-29.81
	7,100.90
Standard & Poor's 500	-19.13
	2,635.67
Russell 2000	4.57
	1,554.91

### WEATHER OUTLOOK



The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

# WEEKEND



Liz Phair reflects  
on 'Guyville'

Pages 36-37

# Endless *summer*

Season's movie blockbusters arriving earlier, more often than ever

• Stars and Stripes moviegoers weigh in on what they're looking forward to, Pages 24-25  
• What's playing and when, Page 25

# WEEKEND: GADGETS & CHARTS



JOSH MILLER, CNET/TNS

**Samsung's Galaxy S9 Plus is the version that power users will want.**

## Waterproof phones a good call

CNET.com

**S**ummer is around the corner, and you'll soon be seeking out a pool or a lake to cool off in. A waterproof phone might be a good call. These are three of the most splashproof models out there right now.

### Apple iPhone X

Product review: [tinyurl.com/y8gfr7y](http://tinyurl.com/y8gfr7y)

CNET rating: 4.5 stars out of 5 (Outstanding)

The good: A great blend of hand-held comfort and a big, gorgeous OLED screen. Rear telephoto camera outshoots the 8 Plus in low light, and the front camera snaps impressive portrait selfies. Face ID generally works fine.

The bad: New interface and no home button mean major adjustments, and key features such as the Control Center are harder to reach and use. It'll take time for most apps to be optimized for the notched screen. The phone is really expensive, and the all-glass design means a case and an insurance plan are musts. Shorter battery life than iPhone Plus models.

The cost: \$999.00 to \$1,199.00  
The bottom line: iPhone X is an overdue and winning evolution of the iPhone, but you'll need to leave your comfort zone to make a jump into the face-recognizing future.

### Samsung Galaxy Note 8

Product review: [tinyurl.com/yydw8khh](http://tinyurl.com/yydw8khh)

CNET rating: 4.5 stars out of 5 (Outstanding)

The good: The Galaxy Note 8 tops Samsung's already excellent S8 and S8 Plus with dual cameras and a boatload of style tricks. It's the most feature-rich Android phone you can buy.

The bad: An expensive phone, the Note 8 has more features than most people will need. Samsung's portrait mode can be finicky. The poorly placed fingerprint reader repeats the Galaxy S8's worst design flaw.

The cost: \$684.99 to \$949.99

The bottom line: The Galaxy Note 8 retakes the throne as the ultimate Android phone for now, but some intense competition is just over the horizon.

### Samsung Galaxy S9 Plus

Product review: [tinyurl.com/y88h5tvy](http://tinyurl.com/y88h5tvy)

CNET rating: 4.5 stars out of 5 (Outstanding)

The good: The Galaxy S9 Plus one-ups the excellent Galaxy S9 with a second rear camera for taking portrait photos.

The bad: Battery life fell short of last year's model in our tests, and the Galaxy S9 Plus suffers from the same under-baked extras as the smaller Galaxy S9. The dual-aperture camera tends to overexpose low-light photos in auto mode.

The cost: \$839.99 to \$929.99

The bottom line: Samsung's Galaxy S9 Plus is the more robust Galaxy S9, and the one for power users to get.

## GADGET WATCH

# Stuff to help you get in gear for summer

By GREGG ELLMAN

Tribune News Service

**S**tay bug-free with a green lawn while playing some good tunes in the water. That's just a sampling of what some of the must-have summer gadgets will help you do.

Thermacell has a few remedies to stop the bugs from biting. The **Radius Repellent System** (\$49.99) is a compact solution, with a six-hour rechargeable lithium-ion battery creating a 110-square-foot mosquito protection zone. The replaceable (\$19.99) repellent solution is good for up to 40 hours of use, which doesn't have to be used all at one time. It's as simple as turning on and off, or just use the timer.

The **Patio Shield Repeller** (\$24.99) works with a replaceable fuel cartridge and on-board mat storage, which are good for four hours each and creates a zone of 51-by-15 feet of mosquito protection. You get three mats and one fuel cartridge with each Patio Shield. They come in five colors — greenery, glacial blue, fiesta red, graphite and white. A box of 15 replacement mats and five fuel cartridges is \$22.53.

Online: [thermacell.net](http://thermacell.net)

The **Scotts Gro water sensor** is placed right into your potted plants, so you know exactly when they need a drink. The sensor measures the moisture content in your plant's soil and connects to a hub via Wi-Fi to plant a catalog of more than 50,000 plants, so it knows when it's time to water. You can even get a text message or an email notifying you when to give it some water. Each hub can control up to 64 sensors. A starter kit is \$99.99 and includes the hub and one sensor; each additional sensor is \$39.99.

Scotts 7-Zone controller uses real-time weather data to update your lawn's watering schedule and needs. It replaces your existing controller and works with the Scotts Gro Connect app (iOS or Android) to set a watering schedule or control watering manually from anywhere. Amazon Alexa and other voice assistants can also be used to start the watering. \$149

Online: [mygro.com](http://mygro.com)

The **Wonderboom Freestyle Collection portable Bluetooth speaker** from Ultimate Ears (pictured below) will bring big-size sound with fashion poolside or even in the water. It pumps out 360-degree sound with the perfect amount of bass for up to 10 hours before a USB charge



SCOTTS GRO/TNS

**Scotts Gro water sensor measures the moisture content in your plant's soil.**

is needed. It's iPX7 rated so that it can be immersed in water for 30 minutes up to a meter deep. You can float it or even drop it from up to five feet. Or let it hang out with the built-in hanging loop. A single button on top controls your music. Two Wonderbooms can be paired, and they are available in five fancifully-named styles (avocado, concrete, patches, raspberry and unicorn). \$99.99

Online: [ultimateears.com](http://ultimateears.com)

The Scosche has partnered with Realtree to give the **GoBat 12000** a rugged camouflage look, ideal for the outdoor enthusiast into camping, biking or kayaking. It's crafted with a Military Spec 810G Drop/Shock construction and is IP68 waterproof/dustproof up to 3 meters. With 12,000 mAh of power, it can keep most any portable USB gadget running and charge today's smartphones up to six times. A LED display shows you the current battery level of the dual USB ports with an output of 12W/2.4A.

Online: [scosche.com](http://scosche.com); \$49.99

Jabra's **Elite 65t true wireless earbuds** do it all. They have amazing sound, incredible battery life, dual microphones for hands-free calls and a great look. The battery life gives you 5 hours on their own and 15 hours with the included charging and storage case. One-touch access to voice assistants and an IP55 rating make them ideal for use while climbing up a sweat whether working out or mowing the lawn. With the Jabra Sound+ app, users can personalize the earbuds with music profiles, how much battery life is left and even how much noise you hear.

Online: [jabra.com](http://jabra.com); \$169.99



## ITUNES MUSIC

The top 10 songs and albums on iTunes for the week ending April 26:

1. "No Tears Left to Cry," Ariana Grande
2. "Babe" (feat. Taylor Swift), Sugarland
3. "Meant to Be," Bebe Rexha & Florida Georgia Line
4. "Nice For What," Drake
5. "God's Plan," Drake
6. "Whiskey & I Takes," Imagine Dragons
7. "Wake Me Up," Avicii
8. "The Middle," Zedd, Maren Morris & Grey
9. "Psycho" (feat. Ty Dolla \$ign), Post Malone
10. "You Make It Easy," Jason Aldean

— Compiled by AP

## SPOTIFY MUSIC

The top 10 songs on Spotify for the week ending May 1:

1. "Better Now," Post Malone
2. "Psycho" (feat. Ty Dolla \$ign), Post Malone
3. "Nice For What," Drake
4. "Parasail," Post Malone
5. "No Tears Left to Cry," Ariana Grande
6. "God's Plan," Drake
7. "One Kiss" (with Dua Lipa), Calvin Harris
8. "rockstar," Post Malone
9. "Spill My Night," Post Malone
10. "Rich & Sad," Post Malone

— Compiled by Stars and Stripes

## ITUNES MOVIES

The top 10 movies on iTunes for the week ending April 29:

1. "Fifty Shades Freed"
2. "Den of Thieves"
3. "Hostiles"
4. "The Greatest Showman"
5. "The Post"
6. "Thor: Ragnarok"
7. "Maze Runner: The Death Cure"
8. "Molly's Game"
9. "Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle"
10. "Forever My Girl"



— Compiled by AP

## BOOKS

The top 10 books on the eBook charts for the week ending April 29:

1. "I'll Be Gone in the Dark," by Michelle McNamara
2. "The Fallen," David Baldacci
3. "Twisted Prey," John Sandford
4. "Then She Was Gone," Lisa Jewell
5. "A Higher Loyalty," James Comey
6. "Crazy Rich Asians," Kevin Kwan
7. "The Last Child," John Hart
8. "Iron Princess," Meghan March
9. "Little Fires Everywhere," Celeste Ng
10. "Misadventures with the Boss," Kendall Ryan

— Compiled by AP

## APPS

The top paid iPhone apps for the week ending April 29:

1. Minecraft
2. Heads Up!
3. Plague Inc.
4. Facetime
5. iSchedule
6. Bloons TD 5
7. Geometry Dash
8. PlantSnap Plant Identification
9. NBA 2K18
10. Papa's Freezeria To Go!

— Compiled by AP

ON THE COVER: Illustration by Danielle L. Kiracofe/Stars and Stripes



## WEEKEND

## CHECK IT OUT

Events, entertainment and other ways to fill your free time

1

## Smaller flicks worth a look

Though we're all concentrating on summer blockbusters right now, this week brings a couple of smaller but still interesting titles that shouldn't be overlooked. Charlize Theron stars in "Tully," another movie written by Diablo Cody ("Juno"). Theron plays an overworked mother of two with an unhelpful husband and another bundle of joy on the way — possibly a midlife crisis, too.

"Overboard," starring Anna Faris, is a remake of the 1987 Goldie Hawn comedy in which a spoiled yacht owner becomes the target of revenge from a mistreated employee.

• Reviews on Page 26.



Focus Features

Charlize Theron stars in "Tully," which basically picks up where "Juno," about a teen with an unexpected pregnancy, leaves off.



METRO GOLDWYN MAYER PICTURES/Pantelion Films

Anna Faris and Eugenio Derbez feature in "Overboard," in which a female employee is trying to pull a fast one on her male employer.

2

## Liz Phair looks back at first album, racy legacy

Those familiar with rock of a certain era probably have strong impressions of Liz Phair's bold, potty-mouthed album "Exile in Guyville."

These same impressions dog Phair to this day, and have haunted her throughout her checkered career. Her personal story is an interesting one, and less well known than her album, which is being re-released this week in a regular edition and as part of a seven-LP set.

• More about Phair on Pages 36-37.

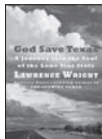


3

## Texan author tells it like it is in 'God Save Texas'

If you know a Texan — better still, if you are a Texan — you know that Texans absolutely assume that their patch of America is unarguably the best. Some even speak longingly of secession. Author Lawrence Wright takes readers on a tour of the good, and the less good, about his state in "God Save Texas: A Journey into the Soul of the Lone Star State." You can't beat it for a funny, insightful and occasionally depressing look at Texans' motherland.

• Book review on Page 38.



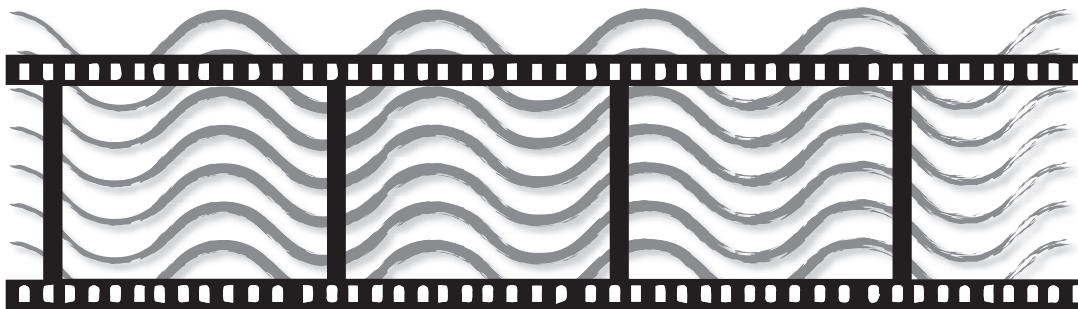
4

## Corden risks life for art once again in crosswalk

James Corden revives his popular "Crosswalk the Musical" segment with an iconic pick, "The Sound of Music." But how does he solve a problem like a guest star who wants to play Maria? Recent Academy Award winner Allison Janney is among the ABC TV stars who show up to help, but Janney wants to challenge Corden for the right to be the lead. The two feud — Janney says if he'd asked her to do "Crosswalk" before she had her Oscar, she's have turned him down flat. As always, the best parts are the confused looks on the parts of the hapless, trapped drivers.

• Watch it at [tinyurl.com/yatmj9jn](http://tinyurl.com/yatmj9jn).

## WEEKEND: SUMMER MOVIE PREVIEW



## Summer's never-ending stories

Seems like summer starts at the box office earlier and earlier — and this year it feels as if it's been stuffed full of long-awaited sequels, new twists and familiar faces. Some of the staff at Stars and Stripes pick the summer flicks they can't wait to watch.

20TH  
CENTURY  
FOX/AP**'Deadpool 2'**

Picture me, a junior in high school when I discovered the X-Force comic book. I was a big fan of the X-Men comic series when this 'X' spin-off debuted. So when I saw that "Deadpool 2" is going to feature the X-characters Cable, Shatterstar, Domino and more, I was instantly committed.

Deadpool has always been a cult favorite among comic fanboys. It's very rare that the movie gives the fans the actor/actress we campaign to have for a specific role, but in this case, we got just what we wanted. We always knew Ryan Reynolds was the perfect guy to play the quirky mutant with no filter for his in-your-face sense of humor.

Part of the fun of comic book movies is that fans finally get to see the characters they've been reading about on the big screen. Based on the trailer(s), I don't think "DP2" will disappoint.

— Doug Gillam, visual information specialist

Warner  
Bros.  
Pictures**'Ocean's 8'**

Danny Ocean is dead. But his sister, Debbie, played by Sandra Bullock, has just been released from prison. And she's been plotting a great heist. Of course.

"Ocean's 8" is the summer movie I'm most excited to see. (There's no Minions movie, right?) Beyond starring one of my favorite actresses, the Oscar-winning Bullock, there's Mindy Kaling ("The Office") and Rihanna. And as the heist will take place at the annual gala at The Met in New York City, I'm sure there will be a ton of glamour and cameos.

But the best part of the Ocean's movies for me has always been the way the story is told — there is always a play within a play of the heist, and the trailer hints that this is the case again. Count me in for the twists and turns of "Ocean's 8."

— Danielle L. Kiracofe, features copy editor

Disney,  
Pixar**'Incredibles 2'**

Let me preface this by saying if you haven't seen "The Incredibles" (the first movie), do it. Do it now and thank me later.

The first movie was an instant family favorite, one I'm proud to say my family still owns on DVD (an ancient form of movie watching; you can Google it). So, when the trailer for the second movie surfaced, I WAS ALL ABOUT IT. "The Incredibles 2" picks up where the first film left off with all-new evil villains and a now-toddler Jack Jack, who is developing superpowers left and right. Throw in my all-time favorite character, Edna Mode (voiced by Director Brad Bird), and the reversal of classic gender norms with Mr. Incredible (Craig T. Nelson) staying home with Jack Jack while Elastigirl (Holly Hunter) saves the world, and I am here for it.

You can guarantee that when the movie hits theaters on June 15, I will be elbowing small children out of the way. I'm kidding. Sort of.

— Addison O'Shea, content designer,  
publishing and media design

Get news and reviews of this season's flicks at [stripes.com/go/summermovies](https://www.stripes.com/go/summermovies)

## WEEKEND: SUMMER MOVIE PREVIEW



Universal Pictures

**'Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom'**

Let's face it: We don't go to summer movies for an original experience. It's the film equivalent of comfort food, where we have (sort of) new adventures with old favorites. With that in mind, I'll happily take another visit to Jurassic World — this time, a rescue mission before a volcano erupts and kills all the resurrected dinos in what remains of the now-abandoned park.

**BUT WAIT — WHAT'S THIS?** The final trailer (released April 18 for the movie due out June 22) reveals that there's a double cross in the works. Chris Pratt's dino-wrangler character and his now-ex, played by Bryce Dallas Howard, unwittingly help to the ancient critters off the island for ... military purposes? It's not clear, but what is obvious is that a lot more toothy, terrifying fun on the mainland is ahead. Equally welcome — Jeff Goldblum's Ian Malcolm is set to dole out more deliciously accurate doom-and-gloom prophecy about how humans and dinos don't mix. Bring it on!

— Kate Maisel, features editor



Lucasfilm Ltd.

**'Solo: A Star Wars Story'**

Once upon a time, a new Star Wars movie caused moviegoers everywhere to perk up and take notice. That time lasted from "A New Hope" all the way until, well, "Solo: A Star Wars Story."

"Solo" is the second attempt by Disney to branch off from the ongoing adventures of the Skywalker clan. Their first side movie, "Rogue One," was a great success, bringing in the usual Death Star-sized pools of money. "Solo," a prequel movie that tells the backstory of Han Solo, Chewbacca and Lando Calrissian, looks to mirror that success.

Fan reception to "Solo's" trailers has been relatively lukewarm, though, so the movie is really going to have to rely on positive word-of-mouth to match the exceptional success of previous Star Wars films. The trailers are a bit rough, with some questionable dialogue and a suspicious lack of plot details, but even so, the movie does seem to have a lot going for it.

The biggest draw is over-talented actor/musician/comedian/writer Donald Glover's take on Lando. Of all the main characters in the original trilogy, Lando's history was the one we knew the least about. With such a unique talent donning Lando's cape, if nothing else, "Solo" will add interesting perspective on a much-beloved character. I suppose finding out more about Han's backstory will be fine too. But Lando!

This being Star Wars, the sheer spectacle and Twitter debate fodder alone will be worth the price of a ticket. Expect all the big-budget space battles, gorgeous set pieces and riveting musical scores of any other movie in the series when "Solo: A Star Wars Story" opens May 25.

— Michael S. Darnell, web editor



Film Frame/ Marvel Studios

**'Ant-Man and the Wasp'**

Those unconvinced at Marvel's ability to turn any old comic-book property into liquid gold found themselves at a loss as 2015's "Ant-Man" raked in a cool \$519 million and an impressive 82 percent on Rotten Tomatoes.

After all, if Marvel could make a compelling action flick from a superhero whose power set includes talking to bugs and making himself very small, what couldn't they turn into a successful franchise?

Part of "Ant-Man's" success is due to the fact that in a sea of global threats and grimly serious heroes, the problems of a down-on-his-luck divorced dad resonated with the average moviegoer. While few of us could relate to the struggles of a god with the physique of a professional bodybuilder or an Elon Musk outfitted with a personal flying tank, Paul Rudd's everyman hero felt more grounded, more personable.

The casting was sublime, with Rudd's lackadaisical wit pairing nicely with "Lost" alum Evangeline Lilly's exasperated heroine in waiting and Michael Pena's scene-stealing, slick-talking con man. Michael Douglas' gruff mentorship added a new dimension to not only the movie itself, but to the larger Marvel cinematic universe.

All of the primary cast returns for "Ant-Man and the Wasp," with Lilly getting to show off her action chops as the titular Wasp. The earlier trailers have shown that the first movie's wry take on all things superheroic is returning, thankfully.

— Michael S. Darnell, web editor

## Here's some of what's playing this summer at the movies

## May

**"Breaking In" (May 11):** Gabrielle Union has to defend her family from home invaders.

**"Life of the Party" (May 11):** A newly single housewife (Melissa McCarthy) goes back to college with her daughter, to try to reclaim her life.

**"Book Club" (May 18):** Jane Fonda, Diane Keaton, Candice Bergen and Mary Steenburgen play lifelong friends, and book club members, who are unexpectedly affected when they crack open "Fifty Shades of Grey."

**"First Reformed" (May 18):** A tension-filled drama about a grieving pastor (Ethan Hawke) and a woman (Amanda Seyfried) at his church.

**Also playing:** "The Seagull" (May 11); "Lu Over the Wall" (May 11); "Mountain" (May 11); "On Chesil Beach" (May 11); "Show Dogs" (May 18); "How to Talk to Girls at Parties" (May 18); "Sollers Point" (May 18); "Pope Francis: A Man of His Word" (May 18); "Summer 1993" (May 25); "Woman Walks Ahead" (on DirecTV May 31).

## June

**"Action Point" (June 1):** Johnny Knoxville pulls some crazy stunts at a purposefully dangerous amusement park.

**"Adrift" (June 1):** Based on a true story, a couple (Shailene Woodley and Sam Claflin) on a deep sea sailing adventure attempt to survive a hurricane and its aftermath.

**"A Kid Like Jake" (June 1):** Parents Claire Danes and Jim Parsons grapple with the apparent gender nonconformity of their four-year-old son.

**"Won't You Be My Neighbor" (June 8):** Put on your comfy sneakers and cardinal for this documentary about Mister Fred Rogers.

**"Tag" (June 15):** A group of adult friends (Ed Helms, Jake Johnson, Rashida Jones, Isla Fisher) continue the tradition of their annual, competitive game of tag.

**"Sicario: Day of the Soldado" (June 29):** Josh Brolin and Benicio Del Toro take on drug cartels responsible for smuggling terrorists across the border in this sequel.

**"Uncle Drew" (June 29):** "Get Out" scene-stealer Lil Rel Howery stars in this comedy about a Harlem basketball tournament.

**"The Hustle" (June 29):** A remake of "Four Daring Schemers" with Anne Hathaway and Rebel Wilson.

**Also playing:** "American Animals" (June 1); "Upgrade" (June 1); "Hearts Beat Loud" (June 1); "Hereditary" (June 8); "Hotel Artemis" (June 8); "Loving Pablo" (June 15); "Gotti" (June 15); "The Year of Spectacular Men" (June 15); "Superfly" (June 15); "Under the Silver Lake" (June 22); "Boundaries" (June 22); "Damsel" (June 22); "The King" (June 22 in NY, June 29 in LA); "Leave No Trace" (June 29); "Valley Girl" (June 29); "Three Identical Strangers" (June 29).

## July

**"Sorry to Bother You" (July 6):** A Sundance breakout, this Oakland-set sci-fi comedy stars Lakeith Stanfield as a telemarketer opposite Tessa Thompson and Armie Hammer.

**"Whitney" (July 6):** A documentary from Kevin Macdonald that explores the life of Whitney Houston with the support of her estate.



Warner Bros. Pictures

**Melissa McCarthy stars in the summer flick "Life of the Party."**

**"Skyscraper" (July 13):** Framed and on the run, Dwayne Johnson has to save his wife and kids from the world's tallest building, which also happens to be on fire.

**"The Equalizer 2" (July 20):** Denzel Washington reprises his role as gun for hire Robert McCall.

**"Mamma Mia: Here We Go Again!" (July 20):** Pack your bags to spend another ABBA-filled summer in the Greek Isles with a pregnant Sophie (Amanda Seyfried), who learns about her mom Donna's youth.

**Also playing:** "The First Purge" (July 4); "Hotel Transylvania 3: Summer Vacation" (July 13); "Don't Worry He Won't Get Far on Foot" (July 13); "Generation Wealth" (July 20); "Blindsight" (July 20).

## August

**"The Darkest Minds" (Aug. 3):** When teenagers get superpowers, the government turns against them in this sci-fi action movie based on the Alexandra Bracken novel.

**"Mile 22" (Aug. 3):** Mark Walberg re-teams with director Peter Berg for this action movie about an American intelligence officer and the police officer he has to protect.

**"The Spy Who Dumped Me" (Aug. 3):** Two friends (Mila Kunis and Kate McKinnon) get entangled in an international conspiracy in this comedy.

**"The Meg" (Aug. 10):** It's Jason Statham and a giant shark. Enough said.

**"BlackClansman" (Aug. 10):** Filmmaker Spike Lee tells the story of a detective (John David Washington) and his partner (Adam Driver) who go undercover to infiltrate the Ku Klux Klan.

**"The Happytime Murders" (Aug. 17):** In a world where puppets and humans co-exist, two odd-couple cops (one human, one puppet) band together to solve a crime.

**"Crazy Rich Asians" (Aug. 17):** An American woman (Constance Wu) gets transported into a world of excess when she flies to Singapore to meet her boyfriend's family in this adaptation of Kevin Kwan's popular book.

**Also playing:** "The Wife" (Aug. 3); "The Village of the Damned" (Aug. 3); "Disney's Christopher Robin" (Aug. 3); "A.X.L." (Aug. 10); "Madeline's Madeline" (Aug. 10); "Alpha" (Aug. 17); "Dog Days" (Aug. 10); "Captive State" (Aug. 17); "Juliet, Naked" (Aug. 17); "Three Seconds" (Aug. 17); "Slender Man" (Aug. 24); "Kin" (Aug. 31); "The Little Stranger" (Aug. 31).

From The Associated Press



# WEEKEND: MOVIES

A nanny (Mackenzie Davis, left) provides a stressed-out mother of three (Charlize Theron, right) unexpected relief in "Tully." PHOTOS COURTESY OF FOCUS FEATURES/AP



## 'Tully' is a deep yet concise rumination on motherhood

By KATIE WALSH

Tribune News Service

Screenwriter Diablo Cody won an Oscar for her debut screenplay for "Juno," directed by Jason Reitman, and firmly established her unique voice — sarcastic, smart and referential, a singular blend of self-deprecation and superiority. With Reitman, Cody has explored the outer ranges and growth of this voice across the various stages of life, from the young, snarky pregnant teen Juno, to the single, embittered novelist returning to her hometown in "Young Adult," and now to an exhausted, middle-aged mother in "Tully."

Charlize Theron, who delivered the barbs of "Young Adult" with such flair, complements the artistic trifecta with Reitman and Cody once again in "Tully," playing Marlo, the heavily pregnant mother of two just trying to get through the day intact. Already frazzled, things are looking bleak for the arrival of her third child, with her troubled kindergarten Jonah, her passive husband, Drew (Ron Livingston), and ostensibly wealthy brother, Craig (Mark Duplass). Marlo gets through the day with a forward-facing smile that turns into a derisive sneer behind closed doors, but that careful balance is about to be thrown entirely off.

Craig's baby gift to her, presented in his home tiki bar, is the services of a night nanny, which Marlo rebuffs. She claims she doesn't want a stranger bonding with her newborn in the middle of the night, but the cycle of feeding, pumping, diapering and homemaking (frozen pizza and microwaved broccoli) is brutally punishing. After a particularly rough day dealing with school administration, who'd like the family to hire an aide for Jonah, she cracks and digs up the number.

Tully (Mackenzie Davis), the nanny, arrives on her doorstep at



night, a bright-eyed font of girlish awe and wonder, spouting fun facts and positive vibes, sporting a taut, 20-something body, taking the baby off her hands, letting Marlo sleep, cleaning the house and baking cupcakes.

Through Tully, the drowning Marlo works her way to the surface to catch a gasp of air. She's a drowning woman, and Tully is the mermaid who rescues her from the crushing pressure she's under. Turns out outsourcing half the maternal duties is the key to happiness and health.

The film explores the taboo of modern culture around the idea of "hired help" — Jonah's classroom aide, Marlo's favorite show "Gigolos." Is there anything wrong with paying for assistance, or does it reveal a crack in the illusion of perfection?

In "Tully" there's a true sense of flow among the collaborators, despite the dark material. Theron embodies Cody's voice with ease and aplomb, making clever quips sound organic to her specifically caustic personality. But Cody's writing is restrained and efficient — it says a lot with a little, suggests but never overexplains.

Reitman creates a realistically drab enough world to reflect Marlo's dark reality, with a cluttered, out-of-date house, editing together montages of endless feedings and terrifying dream sequences and hallucinations. The film looks exactly like the inside of Marlo's mind, just as her exterior appearance reflects her internal struggle.

"Tully" slowly reveals itself to the audience as a far more psychologically complex tale than simply "woman hires a nanny." Marlo is struggling with her identity as a mother, with the idea of normalcy as a gift to her children bumping up against the struggling mundanity of her suburban life. It's an emotionally deep yet concise rumination on the nature of modern motherhood, on the inherently false premise of doing it all, of having it all and making it look good. "Tully" shatters that notion, presenting motherhood in all its gross and glorious struggle, and asserts the idea that we all need a little help sometimes, in whatever form that takes.

"Tully" is rated R for language and some sexuality/nudity. Running time: 96 minutes.

## What others are saying

You could say that "Tully" is a familiar comedy-drama about a stressed-out mom in her 40s (Charlize Theron) who, after her third child, finds physical support and emotional solace in the company of a 26-year-old child-care aide (Mackenzie Davis). There's the trope of the disengaged dad (Ron Livingston) and even a sight gag about stepping on stray Legos, barefoot. But that synopsis does an injustice to the film. Not because it's inaccurate, but because it doesn't begin to capture the cinematic sleight-of-hand by which this third collaboration between director Jason Reitman and screenwriter Diablo Cody ("Juno," "Young Adult") transforms itself from a garden-variety tale of harried parenthood into something stranger, more honest and even magical. How it accomplishes that trick must not be revealed; it involves one of filmdom's great bits of storytelling trickery. But that it does so, and in the service of a narrative that is at once prosaic in its specificity and marvelously poetic, should be celebrated, even sung from the rooftops.

— Michael O'Sullivan  
The Washington Post

"Tully" isn't a song-singing fantasy like "Mary Poppins." It lives in the unglamorous and sleepless postpartum haze of breast pumps and swaddles. But like "Poppins," "Tully" is a fantasy of parenthood — a homely fairy tale about a bagged mother who's feeling her younger, former self slip away. ... Charlize Theron, who's steadily making a career out of subverting her own glamour ("Monster," "Mad Max: Fury Road"), is extraordinary as Marlo, a character for whom she reportedly gained 50 lbs. It's surely one of the most authentic portrayals of young motherhood that we've had — and it's not like that's a much chronicled subject for Hollywood. Her Marlo is a frank missive into the myth of the "Super Mom."

— Jake Coyle  
Associated Press

"Tully" is intriguing and quite funny at times, but for all of its realism, this comedy-drama isn't fully formed. It makes you wish director Jason Reitman and screenwriter Diablo Cody had filled in more of the blanks in terms of story and the characters. What is impressive is Charlize Theron's raw, gritty portrayal. She brings Marlo to life with stark, let-it-all-hang-out honesty. It's a compelling performance worthy of an Oscar nomination, but I'm afraid the film won't have enough juice to get her there.

— Clint O'Connor  
The Akron Beacon Journal



METRO GOLDWYN MAYER PICTURES-PANTELION FILM/AP

## 'Overboard'

A remake of the 1987 romantic comedy of the same name, "Overboard" follows a working-class single mother (Anna Farris, right) who convinces a playboy with amnesia (Eugene Derbez, left) that they are a married couple. A review of "Overboard" was not available at press time. The film is rated PG-13 for suggestive material, partial nudity and some language. Running time: 112 minutes.

## WEEKEND: QUICK TRIPS

## Europe

## Shaking off winter

Abbey Gardens in Bury St. Edmunds, England, comes alive in spring

By William Howard  
Stars and Stripes

Country parks in England come alive in spring with beautifully arranged blossoming flowers, seas of wild daffodils and clear blue skies.

People emerge from their winter hibernation for peaceful strolls, picnics and lazy weekends in places like the Abbey Gardens, located in the heart of Bury St. Edmunds.

The Abbey Gardens was created in 1831 as a botanic garden mimicking the Royal Botanic Gardens in Brussels. Today, the central area is decorated with as many as 20,000 plants and bulbs rotated through seasonal arrangements.

There's much else to see and experience in the 14-acre park: a rose garden, a children's play area and tree house, a wildlife feeding area, a small aviary, an herb garden, a sensory garden for the blind, a bowling green and a tennis court.

Visitors can also explore the ruins of an 11th-century Benedictine Abbey damaged by townspeople in 1327 during a summer of riots. The structure was stripped of its valuable building materials when it was surrendered to King Henry VIII in 1539, after he broke from the Catholic Church.

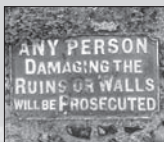
The Great Gate at the main entrance to the park is the best-preserved feature, with stonework that's survived since the 14th century.

For the past nine years the Abbey Gardens has earned the Green Flag Award Scheme, an international mark of quality for parks and green space.

howard.william@stripes.com  
Twitter @Howard\_stripes



**Above:** Visitors enjoy a sunny afternoon at the Abbey Gardens in Bury St. Edmunds, England.



**Left:** Visitors are warned about damaging what's left of a wall from the 11th-century Benedictine Abbey ruins. The Great Gate at the main entrance to the park is the best-preserved feature, with intact stonework from the 14th century.

PHOTOS BY WILLIAM HOWARD  
Stars and Stripes

## ON THE QT

## DIRECTIONS

Address: 34 Abbeygate  
St, Bury Saint Edmunds  
IP33 1LW, UK

About a 30-minute drive from RAF Mildenhall via the A14 motorway with nearby paid parking at the Ram Meadows and Angel Hill car parks.

## COSTS

Admission is free.

## FOOD

The Garden Cafe offers cold and hot drinks, snacks and ice cream.

## INFORMATION

Phone: (+44)(0)1284 757-490, email: parks@westsuffolk.gov.uk, website: westsuffolk.gov.uk/leisure/Parks/abbey-gardens.cfm

— William Howard

## TIMES

Opening times are 9 a.m. Sundays and 7:30 a.m. Mondays-Saturdays. Closing times vary, depending on daylight hours. Generally, gates close from November to February at 4:30 p.m., March to May at 6 p.m., 7:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. from June to September, and in October at 6 p.m.



**Above:** 20,000 plants and bulbs are displayed and rotated through seasonal arrangements.

## WEEKEND: TRAVEL

## Europe

# Hosteling: Great for 'youths' of any age

Many travelers wonder: "Youth hosteling... can we still do that?" You can. Many hostels are filled with travelers well past their 20s — and age cutoffs are generally a thing of the past. Even the International Youth Hostel Federation has removed the word "youth" from its name and is now known as "Hostelling International" (HI). If you're alive, you're young enough to hostel.

Of course, hosteling originated as a way for young backpackers to sleep safely and comfortably without the expense of a hotel. That's still the idea, but as Europe has grown more affluent, hostels have become cushier — more expensive, but with more privacy and perks. While the cheapest beds are still in big dorms where you might have 10 or more roommates, these days hostels offer smaller rooms (even singles and doubles) and a much better shower-to-bed ratio.

Hosteling is great for solo travelers on a tight budget: While a single hotel room costs nearly the same as a double, in a hostel you pay by the bed. Hostels come with an instant circle of potential new friends from around the world, making it easy to find companions for dinner or sightseeing. They're also great for families who want to share one big room and do their own cooking — enjoying meals for the price of groceries.

Many hostels also offer a simple breakfast, serve cheap meals (often in a common seating area), and provide use of a fully equipped kitchen. Some of the bigger, old-school hostels serve cheap cafeteria-style dinners, while many newer ones have an affordable restaurant on site. Travelers can also commune in common areas — lounges often stocked with board games and a lending library.

European hostels that belong to the venerable Hostelling International organization are generally big, institutional, clean and well-organized, while independently-run hostels tend to be more easygoing and colorful (or chaotic and ramshackle, depending on the place). While HI hostels generally segregate travelers into same-sex dorms, independent hostels usually have co-ed dorms (and might offer women-only dorms as well).



Rick Steves

I've hosteled mostly in northern Europe, where places are more comfortable and the savings over hotels more exciting. This is particularly true in the Nordic countries, which have some of Europe's finest hostels. In any Nordic city, you'll find clean, modern, centrally located hostels with private rooms and bathrooms, from the huge, harborside, 16-story Danhostel Copenhagen City to Stockholm's Långholmen Hostel, a former prison in a lovely park on a small island, with converted jail cells as rooms.

You'll find some unforgettable options. The Af Chapman Hostel in Stockholm lets you sleep in a restored ship cabin on a permanently moored 100-year-old schooner. Helsinki's Eurohostel comes with a free morning sauna. And Reykjavik's Galaxy Pod Hostel offers a futuristic feel: Guests get their own space-age sleeping capsule, which offers a little privacy and space to lock up valuables.

While I generally don't hostel in southern Europe (where they're less common and budget hotels are easier to find), I



Courtesy of ricksteves.com

**At Jugendherberge Stahleck, one of Europe's most scenic hostels, travelers sleep in a medieval German castle and enjoy a royal view of the Rhine River.**

make an exception in Lisbon, which is famous for its boutique hostels. Besides the usual dorm beds, most have plenty of double rooms and offer nice extras like bike rentals and movie nights.

Some of the best hostels are in remote settings. For instance, the St. Briavels Castle hostel, in a quiet village on the Wales/England border, lets you sleep in an 800-year-old Norman castle. Chalet Martin in Gryon, Switzerland, is a rustic retreat with a few characteristic private rooms (including a tent with a bed) and stunning mountain views. At the Eplet Bed & Apple hostel, in Solvorn, Norway, you'll enjoy a country home with friendly

hosts, a raspberry-and-apple farm and breathtaking fjord views.

One of my best travel memories is of hosteling along the Rhine River in Germany, in one of Europe's great youth hostels: Stahleck Castle. Imagine the thrill of spending just \$40 a night for a bed in a 12th-century castle on a hilltop — 350 steps above the town of Bacharach — and ending your day with a drink on your own Rhine-view balcony.

Rick Steves ([www.ricksteves.com](http://www.ricksteves.com)) writes European travel guidebooks and hosts travel shows on public television and public radio. Email him at [rick@ricksteves.com](mailto:rick@ricksteves.com) and follow his blog on Facebook.

## TOP TRAVEL PICKS

### Liberation fest in Pilsen

The liberation of Czechoslovakia by Allied troops on May 1945, one of the closing chapters in World War II, is still gratefully remembered in the west Bohemian city of Pilsen. From May 4-6, locals, U.S. military veterans and their relatives, those presently serving and others will gather there to honor this critical event in our common history.

Highlights on the program of this year's Liberation Festival include a concert by the Count Basie Orchestra at 8 p.m. May 4, the Convoy of Liberty from 11 a.m. on May 5, and the traditional commemorative ceremony titled "Thank You, America" at 4 p.m. May 6. On all days, visitors can check out historical military camps of the 16th Armored Division, the Czechoslovak Independent Armored Brigade and The Royal Air Force. Concerts, folklore performances and displays of modern military and peacekeeping equipment round out the offerings.

Online: [slavnosti.vobody.cz/en](http://slavnosti.vobody.cz/en)

### Iris Festival in Brussels

Brussels buzzes with fun and mind-expanding activities through the weekend as its part of its annual Iris Festival, an event which encourages Brussels citizens, those from outer regions



Karen Bradbury

Read more about things to do in the Europe Traveler blog: [stripes.com/blogs/europe-traveler](http://stripes.com/blogs/europe-traveler)

and visitors to mingle in relaxed surroundings.

The daytime hours of May 5 are dedicated to the exploration of Brussels' outlying communities of Uccle, Ixelles, Auderghem and Watermael-Boitsfort and include visits to usually off-limits places. It's also Europe Day, when the public is invited to peek inside the institutions of the European Union, including the European Parliament and Europa building, seat of the European Council. Starting at 6 p.m., the Place des Palais hosts six acts performing as part of Electro Night.

From noon to 6 p.m. May 6, the action centers on Brussels Park, site of fun in the form of circus and walking acts, sporting activi-

ties and themed villages. Dozens of food trucks serve up international tastes. Festivities close at 6:30 p.m. with "Mixity sings Brel," in which 20 local artists pay homage to beloved Brussels singer-songwriter Jacques Brel. Online: [irisfestival.brussels](http://irisfestival.brussels)

### Nuremberg's Blue Night

Nuremberg is cast in an azure glow this Saturday as part of its annual "Blaue Nacht" festivities. Spring's big night out of culture is a combination of light festival and late-night openings.

From 7 p.m. May 5, visitors can take in projections and video mapping against the backdrop of the city's landmarks or special performances and exhibitions in the city's theaters, museums, churches and other institutions. This year's edition, titled Horizons, offers a reliably eclectic variety of experiences, from New Orleans funk performances to Arabic calligraphy instruction. The pictures for "Anything Goes," a projection against the Kaiserburg, are the work of locally-based American artist Dan Reeder.

Tickets cost 15.70 euros for adults plus fees when purchased online in advance or 18 euros on the night itself. Children under 12 enter for free. Tickets also entitle the bearer to free use of



Courtesy of Liberation Festival Pilsen

**The ceremony "Thank You, America" on May 6 will be part of the Czech Republic city of Pilsen's annual celebration of the liberation of Czechoslovakia by Allied troops.**

the VGN public transportation network. Online: [blauenacht.nuernberg.de/English](http://blauenacht.nuernberg.de/English)

### Brewers market in Ulm

Although strong beer season usually ends with Easter, that's not the case in Ulm, where a Kleinbrauer Markt sees brewers from the region temporarily set up house in the shadow of the city's towering Munster cathedral.

Fourteen brewers serve not only strong beers but such German classics as Pilsners, Maerzen, darks, wheats and bocks. Craft beers are also available.

To keep the event's focus more on taste than mass consumption, partakers sample from .1 liter glasses. Those who collect stamps from six of the participating breweries can enter into a prize drawing for more beer to take home.

Traditional live music creates the proper ambience, while steaks, bratwurst, cheese and local pasta specialties such as Maultaschen provide that hearty base critical to enjoying the next round. Market hours are 4 p.m.-9 p.m. May 4, 11 a.m.-9 p.m. May 5 and 11 a.m.-6 p.m. May 6. Entry is free. Online: [kleinbrauer.de](http://kleinbrauer.de)



## WEEKEND: FOOD &amp; DINING

## Europe



Zheng Junling and Ying Wei operated a Chinese restaurant in Aviano, Italy, for almost two decades. Three months ago, they reopened their restaurant with a new name and at a new location. Right: Bok choy at Tai Ji Food Fusion Restaurant. Far right: A plate of vegetable fried rice costs 3.50 euros.

PHOTOS BY KENT HARRIS/Stars and Stripes



## After Hours: Italy

BY KENT HARRIS  
Stars and Stripes

**T**he restaurant is technically the newest in town, having opened its doors just about three months ago.

But Zheng Junling and Ying Wei are no strangers to the restaurant business in Aviano. They operated a Chinese restaurant just a few blocks away for almost two decades.

Their new location carries a new name — Tai Ji Food Fusion Restaurant — and sports a new menu, with an array of Japanese dishes (including sushi) joining an already large selection. That seems to be a trend at Asian restaurants in this area of Italy's diversity.

There are likely more Chinese restaurants around the country than any other non-Italian options. But getting Italians to come through the door seems to be somewhat of a challenge. And young Italians seem to want to dine on sushi more than traditional Chinese food.

Zheng, who acts as hostess, said business from Italian customers had picked up at the new location, which resembles something out of a strip mall in the States. The former location, just a few minutes' walk away, is in a much older building. It might have had more character, but there wasn't as much room and it was showing its age in some respects, Zheng said.

Americans still make up the bulk of the customer base, though the food — cooked by Wei — is a bit blander than one might find in China or even many spots in the States. Past conversations with owners of other foreign-themed restaurants locally — such as Mexican and Indian — suggest that Italians don't enjoy a lot of spices that aren't found in their cuisine.

That doesn't mean the food is bad by any means. In more than a dozen visits to the restaurant — old and new — the food has always been perfectly cooked and appears to feature quality ingredients.

And it's hard to beat the price. A family of four can expect to get all the food they'd want for 30 euros (\$36) or less — unless you want something a bit more exotic.

Peking Duck or Son Su fish, for example, require days of preparation and need to be requested a few days ahead of time.

Unlike at many Italian restaurants, it's easily possible to get in and out during a lunch hour. But the food isn't already cooked and waiting buffet-style as it is at most other local Chinese places. The Tai Ji is often more crowded at dinner time, and it can take a bit longer to get served. But

## TAI JI FOOD FUSION RESTAURANT

Address: Via Giovanni XXIII 47, Aviano, Italy

**Directions:** The restaurant is on the bottom story of a fairly new building across the road from the Coop supermarket and not far from city hall and the Carabinieri station. It's about a 10-minute walk from Area 1.

**Hours:** 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and 5:30 to 11:30 p.m. Tuesdays-Sundays. Closed Mondays.

**Dress:** Casual

**Menu:** In English and Italian. Some English spoken. Chinese appetizers and soups (1.80-4.80 euros, or \$2.20-\$6); rice (1.80-8 euros); noodles (3.80-8 euros); chicken, pork, beef, seafood and vegetable combinations (4.50-12 euros). An array of Japanese offerings are on a separate menu.

Takeout and some delivery available.

**Phone:** (+39)0434-651-463

— Kent Harris



**Tai Ji Food Fusion Restaurant's almond chicken. As is typical in Chinese restaurants in Italy, if you order a dish such as almond chicken, that's essentially what you get. Don't expect vegetables unless you're ordering vegetables.**

Zheng jokes that most Americans are finished with their meals by the time that Italians start to arrive anyway.

harris.kent@stripes.com

## Spaetzle Primavera recipe keeps dish authentic, fresh

BY SARA MOULTON  
Associated Press

**S**pringtime is the right time for Pasta Primavera, which is, after all, the Italian word for spring. There's some controversy about who invented this wonderful dish, but everyone agrees that it was made famous in the late '70s at New York's Le Cirque restaurant. In any case, the recipe consists of spring vegetables, cream and cheese. How far wrong can you go?

My take on this classic swaps out the traditional Italian pasta for the fresh egg pasta called spaetzle, a kind of soft noodle that's widespread throughout southern Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Hungary, Moselle and South Tyrol. "Wait a minute," you say. "Homemade pasta? Sounds like too much work." Not to worry. The spaetzle will be

ready to cook in the time it takes to bring a pot of water to a boil.

Spaetzle dough is about the consistency of thick pancake batter, which means it's much more liquid than typical pasta dough. You can make it with electric beaters or by hand. But you'll also need a spaetzle maker. The device looks like a metal washboard with holes on it, topped by a small open box made of metal. You set the "washboard" over the pot of boiling water and pour the batter into the little box. The dough drips through the holes as you slowly move the metal box back and forth along the washboard to cut the strands of pasta.

"Who needs yet another kitchen gadget?" you say. I strongly believe that you do. With a spaetzle maker in house — you can easily find them online for about \$12 — you'll find yourself making fresh pasta once a week, because doing so is that simple.

## SPAETZLE PRIMAVERA

Start to finish: 1 hour

Servings: 4 to 6

**Ingredients:**

½ teaspoon kosher salt plus extra for salting the water

1 pound asparagus

1 pound shelled fresh or defrosted frozen peas

8 ounces assorted whole mushrooms, halved or quartered, if large

2 tablespoons vegetable oil

2 cups chicken or vegetable broth

1 cup heavy cream

2 cups all-purpose flour

2 large eggs, lightly beaten

1 ounce grated Parmigiano-Reggiano, plus extra for garnish

Chopped fresh dill for garnish

**Directions:**

Bring a large pot of boiling salted water to a boil. Break or cut off the bottom tough part of the asparagus and, if it is thicker than ½ inch, peel it from right underneath the tip all the way to the bottom of the stem. Working in a few batches, add the asparagus to the water and simmer until they are al dente but not cooked through (1 minute for thin asparagus and 2 minutes for thick), transfer them to a bowl of ice and water to chill. When they are chilled, pat them dry and slice them crosswise, at an angle, ½-inch thick. Set aside. If using fresh peas, add them to the water and simmer them until

al dente, about 2 minutes. Use a strainer to remove them from the water and set them aside. If using defrosted frozen peas, do not cook them at this point (they were already blanched before they were frozen).

In a large skillet, cook the mushrooms in the oil over medium heat, stirring occasionally, until they are golden, about 8 minutes. Add the chicken broth and cream and bring to a boil, reduce to a simmer and simmer until thickened, about 5 minutes. Set aside.

In an electric mixer, stir together the flour and ½ teaspoon salt, add the eggs and 1 cup water and beat until the mixture is smooth. The consistency should be like that of thick pancake batter. If it is thicker, add additional water, a few tablespoons at a time, until it reaches the desired consistency. Place the spaetzle maker over the pot of boiling water and slowly pour the batter into the box, letting it drip down into the water. Boil for a few minutes (taste a piece of pasta to see if it is just al dente). Strain the spaetzle and add it to the skillet along with the asparagus, peas and cream. Bring to a boil and simmer, stirring, until just heated through. Add salt and pepper to taste and serve right away topped with additional cheese, if desired, and the dill.



SARA MOULTON/AP

**Don't be intimidated by the idea of making pasta by hand. It's easy, and Spaetzle Primavera will make you happy you learned how.**

## WEEKEND: TRAVEL

## Europe

## TOP 10 TRIPS

## Sailing The British Virgin Islands, 2000

Sharing a vacation with good friends can make for sweet memories. When it's two Seattle families, all experienced sailors, on a chartered sloop in a Caribbean paradise such as the British Virgin Islands, it can be just about the most legal fun you'll ever have.

It was 10 days of baking in the sun, sailing lively winds from island to island, stuffing ourselves with conch fritters washed down with Red Stripe beer, and a shore party to search for a flamingo colony.

## Sheep shearing in Queensland, 2001

No moon was shining — just the Southern Cross high in the sky — when I arose at 4 a.m. to head out with rancher Bill Huskisson to round up his herds of merino sheep and drive them 15 miles from pasture to shearing shed.

This was Wattle Downs sheep station in the outback of Australia, where my family was enjoying a farm stay, complete with an orphaned baby wallaby to bottle feed.

I drove the "ute" — the Aussie term for utility truck — and monitored the two-way radio as the rancher buzzed around on an ATV, calling and whistling to his dog, Hunter, who did most of the rounding up. My daughter, Lillian, then 10, got to help on horseback in the final mile.

We assisted with the shearing, and saw koalas, trapdoor spiders, giant termite mounds, and great fields of bounding kangaroos silhouetted by the sunrise. It was an unforgettable glimpse of rural Australia.

## On The Freedom Trail, Boston, 2003

New England? In February?

What was I thinking?

"Oh, brother," I muttered, sitting at my Seattle computer two days before a Feb. 20 flight. "Record 24-hour snowfall at Boston," announced the National Weather Service. Hundreds of flights canceled.

"Oh, dear," I whispered.

When I'd seen a cheap flight and snagged tickets, my Seattle naivete momentarily let me forget it was, well, winter in the rest of the country.

From the time she was a preteen until she was in her early 20s, my daughter and I took annual father-daughter trips, and this was one of those. Then 11, she had a week of school, and she'd just studied Colonial America. What a great town to visit together.

Surprise: By the time we arrived, flights were on time, sidewalks were shoveled, the sun came out and it was a wonderful trip, from Boston Common to Paul Revere's house, all mantled in white and Norman Rockwell-scenic.

## Turtle rescue in Costa Rica, 2004

On a full-moon night on the Caribbean shore of Costa Rica, the call had rung out: Here comes one! A leatherback sea turtle,

the size of a kitchen table, was lumbering out of the waves and up the sandy beach to dig a nest and lay her eggs.

Lillian and I were with a group of Seattle schoolchildren and their parents led by an organization called EcoTeach, here to collect the eggs of this endangered species and transfer them to a fenced nursery where they would be safe from predators and poachers.

In-the-trenches environmental action in a steamy jungle setting so different from our home made for a travel experience like no other.

## Paris in winter, 2005

My wife, Barbara, decided that Paris was where she wanted to celebrate her 50th birthday. Being a February baby, that meant she'd have to bundle up against winter winds atop the Eiffel Tower.

It has been years since we've traveled overseas in summer. Long ago we decided we'd rather go to popular places in the more-affordable, less-crowded off-season, and this visit reconfirmed that strategy.

Yes, we had to delay our visit to the tower by a day because the elevator had iced up, but when we went we found short lines and plenty of room at the top.

One of our best choices: renting a small, 16th-century apartment on a back street in the Marais district, away from the tourist zones. We were just around the corner from a pleasant shopping street where we could get dinner from the chicken-roaster man ("Avec du jus?" "Oui, oui!"), wine from our favorite wine shop, and bread from a selection of boulangeries. Not only did we save money by cooking our own meals, we enjoyed the flavor of living like locals in an ordinary yet splendid Paris neighborhood.

## Road trip across the land of the Maya, 2005

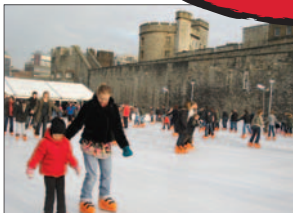
This was a 12-day, 1,200-mile father-daughter road trip circling Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula in a tiny red rental car we dubbed the Clown Car because it resembled one of those tiny vehicles from which dozens of clemens emerge. It was the most "econo" of econoboxes, radio-free and with a pocket-size hat that barely contained our two bags.

The transportation was basic, but the discoveries per mile were eye-popping, ranging from scenic seaside ruins at Tulum to a spooky Mayan city called Calakmul, lost in the jungle just north of Guatemala. We endured a nerve-wracking military search of our car and a hilarious encounter with a wild turkey who decided he owned that road, but the memories were gold-plated (like some of the ceremonial masks we saw in museums).

## Brian And Brian's Excellent Adventure, Ireland, 2006

What happens when you Google your own name one day, halfway through life, and find someone two states away with exactly the same first, middle and last names? And though it

CONTINUED ON PAGE 31



Ice skating in the moat at the Tower of London is a favorite Christmastime tradition.



Brian Joseph Cantwell from Palo Alto, Calif., left, and Brian Joseph Cantwell from Seattle discover the tombstone of another Brian Cantwell, at the Rock of Cashel in County Tipperary, Ireland.



PHOTOS BY BRIAN J. CANTWELL, SEATTLE TIMES/TNS

A farm stay to remember: Farmer's daughter Karen Huskisson bottle feeds an orphaned wallaby on Wattle Downs Sheep Station, in Queensland, Australia.

## As he hangs up his hat, a travel editor recalls fave trips

BY BRIAN J. CANTWELL/The Seattle Times

During my 20-year career writing travel stories for The Seattle Times, a question I've fielded (happily, I should say) when meeting someone for the first time was almost as predictable as the number of pretzels I got flying coach: What's been my favorite trip?

I usually fudged. Prettiest place? Nicest people? Most fun? Educational? How does one judge?

What I've learned through travel, and tried to share, is that I rarely feel more alive than when seeing a new place, meeting new people and tuning in to a different culture. Maybe the destination is kind of secondary.

But now that I'm retiring soon, a friend came back at me with the old question, so I guess it's time to commit. My out? Everybody loves a Top 10 list.

Reminiscing is an indulgence, but if it inspires you to jump on a plane, consider it my parting gift. I'll be forever grateful to have had one of the best jobs in the world.

Some of these were personal travel, some were reporting trips. They are in order only by year.

## FROM PAGE 30

appears you're not directly related, you discover your fathers shared a first name, along with a startling number of other coincidences in your family backgrounds? Eventually, you learn that you've each traced your ancestry to Ireland, to the same small town in County Kilkenny (which neither of you has visited). What do you do?

You decide to meet one day, for the first time, in that Irish town.

Amazingly, this turned out well, with warm memories of sharing Guinness and roasting Irish music with a new collection of instant "cousins."

## Christmas in London, 2007

What could be better at the holidays than renting a flat a block from Harrod's, ice skating in the London Tower's moat, touring Charles Dickens' house as it's all decorated with period finery, and then cooking a Christmas dinner of beef Wellington made from tender fillet raised on the Queen Mum's royal estate?

My family debated where we would spend Christmas if we could pick any city in the world. London was it. God rest its merry gentlemen.

## Hiking The Wonderland Trail, 2013

On our father-daughter trips we sampled faraway places, but perhaps my dearest memory is of a five-day backpacking trip on a stretch of Mount Rainier's Wonderland Trail, just two hours from home, when my daughter was 21.

Something about traipsing through alpine wilderness in the constant company of "The Mountaineer" made for an unmatched bonding experience. We hiked through blueberry bushes and shin-deep wildflowers, past pikas and marmots and bear poop on the trail. We paused to play pennywhistles or paint watercolors alongside sparkling streams. We sang, played quiz games or just chatted amiably as we walked, and it was a time I'll always treasure.

## Making Liquor For Jesus In Chiapas, 2014

My most otherworldly travel experience? No contest. It was encountering the fascinating mashup of Catholicism and Mayan traditions in the Mexican town of San Juan Chamula, in the southern state of Chiapas.

Here, I was invited to sit with village elders in a dark, smoke-filled bunker as they observed the making of a ceremonial corn liquor to be consumed during an autumnal-Equinox celebration honoring Christ. They didn't just honor their deity, they gave him shelter, food and music, with townspeople vying for the rotating honor of opening their home to Jesus or one of his disciples for a year.

I toured the village church, ostensibly Catholic but with shamans sitting among pine needles in an open floor helping supplicants purge evil by sacrificing chickens. At the altar, men guzzled Coca-Cola so they could belch away evil spirits.

Strange? It depends on your point of view. They were people who treasured their own customs, a reminder that it takes all kinds to make this world.

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## WEEKEND: QUICK TRIPS

## Pacific

Say "teeth!" A young visitor takes a photo inside the Expedition: Dinosaur exhibit at the Bishop Museum in Honolulu.

PHOTOS BY WYATT OLSON/Stars and Stripes



# EONS IN THE MAKING

Explore history of extinct reptiles through interactive displays at Bishop Museum's Expedition: Dinosaur exhibit in Honolulu

By WYATT OLSON  
Stars and Stripes

I recently tried to explain to a 3-year-old the why and whence of dinosaurs, her newly found object of fascination. I failed.

After all, how can you break down geologic timespans of millions of years, mass extinctions and fossilized remains to someone who doesn't yet distinguish minutes from hours?

Best to pack up the youngsters and take them to the Expedition: Dinosaur exhibit at Honolulu's Bishop Museum.

No, it won't give preschoolers a full understanding of all things Jurassic, but it'll keep their minds occupied with animatronic dinosaurs, interactive wizardry and video displays.

Dinosaurs captivate kids, but the educational focus of much of this exhibit is how dinosaurs have lured paleontologists — those are bone-hunters, kids — into the field for the last 150 years in a quest to understand these ancient creatures.

Several displays are plastic replicas of fossils embedded in the ground and covered with faux dirt. Kids can use the hand brushes paleontologists use to sweep away the chunks of dirt to discover the dinosaur bones spread below.

Elsewhere there's a tent set up displaying the tools of the trade, which have remained largely unchanged since the first complete dinosaur remains found in America were dug up and described in 1858.

As Americans moved westward to farm, railroad and prospect, the discovery of dinosaur bones boomed. Robots aren't taking the jobs of paleontologists. They still wander through remote areas known for hiding bones, searching for newly exposed outcroppings that provide hints to what is underneath.

It's then the same painstaking process it was in the 19th century, brushing away limestone and dirt so as not to disturb the fossils, screening dirt by the bucket full to capture even the smallest bones.

The exhibit offers some fun tidbits of info.

First, it is not and will not be possible to clone creatures trapped inside prehistoric amber — the method used to create modern dinosaurs in the movie "Jurassic Park." Amber is porous enough that the strands of DNA are utterly corrupted by the exchange of gases.

Second, fossils aren't the only thing preserved that



gives us an understanding of dinosaurs. Preserved tracks allow scientists to understand their behavior, such as whether they moved in packs. Bite marks on fossilized bones reveal who was biting whom, and how. And fossilized Tyrannosaurus rex poop, for example, shows they only partially digested their meals of meat and bone.

Third, some dinosaurs had scales while others had feathers.

Last, "Billions of dinosaurs laid trillions of eggs during the Mesozoic Era, yet egg fossils are rare," one placard explained. In general, meat-eating dinosaurs laid oblong eggs, plant-eaters laid round ones.

And speaking of eggs, the "Dino-

**Top right:** A prehistoric creature keeps watch outside the entrance to the dinosaur exhibit.

**Above:** A family assembles puzzles as an Albertosaurus stands nearby.

**Right:** A visitor uses a robotic arm to move faux prehistoric eggs at the Dinosaur Hatchery display.



## ON THE QT

### DIRECTIONS

The exhibit can be seen on the first floor of the Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum, Castle Memorial Building, 1525 Bernice St., Honolulu.

### TIMES

9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily through Sept. 3

### COSTS

General admission to museum is \$24.95 for adults; \$14.95 for adults with military ID; \$21.95 for seniors; \$16.95 for ages 4-17; free for ages 4 and younger. There is an additional entrance fee of \$4.95 for the dinosaur exhibit. Museum-lot parking is \$5 per car. Free street parking.

### FOOD

Lunch available at museum cafe from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.; sandwiches cost between \$5.95 and \$7.95.

### INFORMATION

(808) 847-3511; bishopmuseum.org/exhibits

— Wyatt Olson

saucer Hatchery" allows kids to maneuver a robotic arm and fingers to grab, lift and move dinosaur "eggs," in this case the oblong variety.

In other kiosks, kids can trace their favorite dinosaurs or put together prehistoric-themed puzzles.

But it's the dozen life-sized and lifelike animatronic dinosaurs that are likely to interest — or scare — kids.

Some operate through motion sensors, and when you walk up to get a better look, that Kentrosaurus — which means pointed-tail lizard — swings its head and lets out a blood-curdling scream.

The fiercest looking is the Albertosaurus, a smaller cousin to the famed T-Rex, but still offering up a huge head filled with pointed teeth.

The display of two Pachycephalosaurs is downright comical. The skull of this type of dinosaur looks like a World War II-era Army helmet, and in the display the pair is engaged in a head-butting duel to determine dominance.

Other automated dinosaurs have a series of buttons that let you control their breathing and movements of mouth, head, neck and tail. One of them is the Carnotaurus, the only meat-eating dinosaur yet discovered that had horns.

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## WEEKEND: TRAVEL

## Pacific



Japan News-Yomiuri

"I'd like to introduce information on tourist spots from the viewpoint of a disabled person," says Accessible Japan website founder Barry Joshua Grisdale. He is shown April 4 at his job at Azalee Edogawa Intensive Care Nursing Home in Edogawa Ward, Tokyo.

# All about access

## Website has essential info for disabled tourists in Japan

The Japan News/Yomiuri

An English-language website that offers detailed information on accessibility for disabled people at sightseeing spots in Japan is earning positive reviews.

Accessible Japan ([accessible-japan.com](http://accessible-japan.com)) was created by Barry Joshua Grisdale, from Canada, who uses a wheelchair.

Grisdale, 37, of Edogawa Ward, Tokyo, visits tourist locations and summarizes the inconveniences he encounters on the website.

He plans to participate in an event organized by the ward office in May to discuss city development and give a speech about his perspectives as a disabled person.

Grisdale developed cerebral palsy when he was 6 months old. He began to have difficulty moving his hands and legs and started using an electric wheelchair at around 4.

As a high school student in Canada, he met a teacher knowledgeable about Japan and became interested in the country.

Grisdale said he used to watch movies directed by Akira Kurosawa and TV shows starring Takuya Kimura, among other productions.

He traveled to Japan for the first time in 2000, visiting Sensoji temple in Taito Ward, Tokyo, and other spots. He recalled an incident at a subway station during the trip where he could not go down the stairs in a wheelchair and did not know what to do. A station employee asked him if he needed help, and six people carried him on his wheelchair — which weighs more than 220 pounds — down the stairs.

"I was so glad to receive such hospitality, which is typical of Japan," he said.

Grisdale moved to Edogawa Ward in 2007. In 2012, he got a job through an acquaintance at Azalee Edogawa Intensive Care Nursing Home in the ward, where he manages the facility's website, among other responsibilities.

On his days off, he visited sightseeing spots across the country but always felt there were few English-language websites that offered information for disabled tourists. In 2015, he created the Accessible Japan website.

The website provides information on about 50 locations, including Ueno Park, Shinjuku Gyoen National Garden and Tokyo Skytree.

In addition to information on the sites' attractions, the website overviews the locations of restrooms for the disabled, subway station exits with elevators and the size of toilets at hotels, among other details helpful to disabled people.

The website has received positive reviews from people overseas, including a user who was anxious about visiting Japan but was encouraged to travel to the country after reading information on the website.

Grisdale's activities caught the attention of the ward office, which invited him to Edogawa Edogawa Kaigi, a series of seminars to engage young people in discussions about the future of the ward.

He hopes to further improve his website ahead of the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics.

"By introducing Japan's attractions to disabled people abroad, I want to express my gratitude to the Japanese people who have helped me," he said.

## Brilliant exhibit

A vast expanse of Venetian glass lamps greets visitors at the Mori Building Digital Art Museum: Epson teamLab Borderless in Tokyo. The lamps shine brightly when visitors approach, causing other lamps nearby to illuminate with the same color. Titled "Forest of Resonating Lamps — One Stroke," the exhibit is the work of teamLab Inc., a Tokyo-based group of about 400 artists and scientists. The museum opens on June 21.

Japan News-Yomiuri



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## WEEKEND: TRAVEL

# In Israel's crush, is there room for peace?

A weary traveler looks low and high for the answer

A Palestinian woman makes her way toward Damascus Gate, one of the entrances to the Old City of Jerusalem.

DAVID VAAKNIN/For The Washington Post

BY BARBARA NOE KENNEDY  
Special to The Washington Post

I'm in Christendom's epicenter, the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem's Old City, and I'm waiting to feel the holiness.

The last five stations on Jesus' final journey surround me — including the crucifixion hill at Calvary, the anointing stone and his empty tomb, all encased in the giant domed church originally conceived by Saint Helena in the 4th century — but I'm crushed by people pushing, shoving, taking selfies.

I creep up the crowded, narrow steps to the Chapel of Calvary, although when I get the top, the mob blocks my way. I try to approach the altar, to feel something, but a tour group thwarts me. I finally give up. Maybe peace is too much to ask in this land that has experienced so much turmoil.

Outside, tour guide Mari Cohen explains a bit about church politics. The 1852 Status Quo agreement regulates the times and places of worship for the denominations that share the church, which don't get along and are known for verbal and even physical altercations. (On a 2010 visit, I saw a Greek Orthodox priest shove a Roman Catholic woman because the shift had changed.)

I've had enough of this discordant venue. I head to the Sea of Galilee, hoping to find peace there.

This vast, heart-shaped expanse in northern Israel is actually an inland lake, fed mostly by the Jordan River. I hear there's a tradition of eating the St. Peter's Fish, based on a New Testament story: Jesus told Peter that he would find a silver coin in the mouth of the first fish he caught, to pay the temple tax.

Local chefs have taken note and, in what must be one of the best marketing campaigns around, advertise St. Peter's Fish — aka tilapia — on menus throughout the region. So successful, in fact, that local tilapia populations were devastated in the 2000s. The government intervened, replenishing the stock and limiting the fishing season.

I order St. Peter's Fish at Avi's Restaurant in the ancient seaside town of Tiberias. It's served whole,



BARBARA NOE KENNEDY/For The Washington Post

**Two tilapia — aka St. Peter's Fish — await their diners at Avi's Restaurant in Tiberias, Israel.**

grilled and lightly seasoned with herbs. The fish is flaky and fresh, though nothing extraordinary — and, unlike Peter's, it certainly didn't have a shekel in its mouth.

Onward in my search, I stop by the Yardenit Baptismal Site, located on a bucolic bend of the Jordan River. Except, I learn, this isn't the traditional site where John the Baptist baptized Jesus.

That spot, just north of the Dead Sea about 70 miles south, is hotly debated as being either at al-Maghtas in Jordan (a UNESCO World Heritage site) or Qasr al-Yehud, just a few yards away across the river. Both became embroiled in the Arab-Israeli Six-Day War of 1967 and to this day remain behind the lines of a still-sensitive border area.

Built as an alternative baptismal site in 1981, Yardenit is an experience in itself. Flocks of pilgrims clad in white robes congregate at spots along the river's edge before being dunked in the placid, green waters.

"It's free to everyone," Shahar Alon, who lives in the nearby kibbutz that oversees Yardenit, tells me. "And it's open to all spirituality. No questions asked. We've been proud of that method for 38 years."

I love that welcoming outlook, though peace still

eludes me in the grasp of commercialism. The expansive gift shop provides the only exit route from the baptismal site.

As the darkness unfolds, I wearily head to the northern Galilee region and the hilltop town of Safed, one of Judaism's four holy cities. For 2,000 years, Safed has served as an important center of the Kabbalah, the mystical religious text, and four ancient synagogues survive among its artists studios and galleries.

My lodging for the night is the Ruth Rimonim Safed hotel, a sprawling collection of ancient stone buildings that originally served caravans headed to Damascus' central market. But I'm focusing more on the fact that its restaurant and bar is closed. So much for a relaxing glass of wine, I think as I retreat to my room.

It's a cavernous space with throw rugs and antique wood furniture, a little on the chilly side. A staircase leads to a small sitting area, where an Ottoman-style window, draped with tangerine curtains, beckons me.

Far below, I spy lights edging what I perceive to be the dark Sea of Galilee, the stars twinkling in an inky black sky above. They say Safed is the Holy Land's closest town to the heavens, and I believe it. I can almost reach out and touch them. Then the thought strikes me: What is peace, anyway? A sense of calm, of taking a moment to connect with the universe, right?

What if in my impatience I had missed it at my previous stops? Certainly it exists at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, in the early dawn stillness when a member of the same Muslim family that has held the keys for centuries swings open the church doors. I should have visited earlier. And at the Sea of Galilee, where the clear waters ceaselessly lap upon the ancient shore little changed since Jesus walked there. I should have walked along the shore, away from the town bustle. And even at Yardenit, in the joy of the baptismal candidates as the cool Jordan waters wash over them. I should have stayed and watched, from a distance.

I take a deep breath and feel the quietude that has enchanted people through the centuries. I promise myself, I'm not going to miss it here. At long last, on this sacred tiptop hill, I have stumbled upon peace.



## WEEKEND: LIFESTYLE



# I went to get hugged by a professional cuddler.

## Here's how it felt.

By TARA BAHRAMPOUR  
The Washington Post

**I**sank into the memory foam mattress on the floor. Annie Hopson, a mama-bear type in her 50s, had put on some new-agey music. Her studio, an upstairs bedroom in her Ellicott City, Md., townhouse, was fragrant with essential oils.

"How would you like to start?" she asked. I had no idea. How does one start cuddling with a stranger?

In the student co-op in Berkeley where I lived in the 1980s, friends hung out on futons on the floor and casual touch and backrubs were common. Sometimes they led to sex (resulting in everything from morning-after regrets to decades-long marriages), but often the touching was platonic. It was long before the #MeToo movement, and for better or worse I don't recall anyone expressing much concern about boundaries.

Now I live in Washington. It's not a cuddly city. People are highly conscious of boundaries (at least in public) and tend to avoid intentional contact with strangers or acquaintances. Even before the careers of politicians, Hollywood stars and media professionals started imploding right and left, people kept their hands to themselves.

Professional cuddling, an occupation on the rise in our touch-starved culture, is informed by consent. According to the rules established by cuddle parties and cuddling websites, nothing happens that both people don't verbally agree to in advance.

Following the protocol of Cuddlist.com, where Annie received her training, she and I had an initial get-to-know-you phone call. During it, she urged me to talk to her as a client and not a reporter. Since I am a single mom, she surmised that I am used to giving a lot of care but might

not receive much myself, and she told me I might be surprised at feelings that arose.

Right now, the dominant feeling was awkwardness. How would I like to start? Lying on the foam in loose sweatpants and a sweater as the music twanged mildly, I was stumped.

"Honestly," I told her, "when I saw your massage table in the other room, I was kind of wishing I could get a massage. But that would be cheating."

"No, it wouldn't," she said. There was no wrong way to cuddle. So I pointed to trouble spots in my neck and hip. A long-time massage therapist, Annie found the tightness and pressed into it, which felt great.

This was totally cheating. If I wanted to see what the cuddling experience was about, I couldn't spend the whole hour getting kneaded. I had to plunge into untested waters.

"So," I asked. "What are the most common cuddle positions?"

"Hmm, I'm feeling like you have your reporter hat on now," she said.

Yes and no. As a paying client, I also wanted to know what was possible in an hour of service.

All right, she said. Spooning is popular.

"That sounds good," I said.

"Would you like to be the big spoon or

the little spoon?" she asked.

Hmm. Cuddling seemed to require a lot of decisions from the cuddlee. It's not like going to a chiropractor or massage therapist, where you sit back and let the pro handle it. This was more like feeling around in the dark for an object whose shape I was unsure of.

I chose little spoon, and she curled around my back and wrapped her arm around me. After a few minutes she said, "I'm feeling like I want to take your hand. Would that be something you would like me to do?"

I thought that made sense, so I said yes. During the remainder of the session we tried — after discussing — several cuddling positions, including me lying back against her in a sitting-up toboggan position with her arms around me. At 50 minutes a warning buzzer rang, and 10 minutes later the session was over. We chatted a bit, then I paid her and left.

As I drove back to my office I tried to think through what exactly had bothered me about the session. Though my experience with professional cuddling is limited, Annie seemed to be good at it. She's a mom, and she has a physical presence that is both cozy and confident. Likely a regular, non-journalist client would have come in with a more focused set of desires (and no reporter hat). But that wasn't what gave me pause.

It was the consent. Professional cuddling is by definition nonsexual, but the rules of cuddling felt similar to what college students today are taught to follow during sexual encounters. Maybe I'm a

horrible retrograde, but I don't want to be asked. If I am lying in someone's arms, whether for cuddling or something else, I want there to be a degree of intuitiveness and faith that it's all good.

Is that something that, in cuddling, would come with time? Does a cuddler get to know what works with a client and what doesn't to the point where she doesn't have to ask? I called Annie to inquire.

The answer was complex. In one sense, yes: As in any relationship, repeat cuddle sessions allow participants to learn each other's rhythms. But even then, she said, "I still like to check in with someone ... There are some times when a certain kind of touch is okay but a different kind of touch is preferable. So with a regular, I ask, 'Can you check in with your body right now and what is the piece that most wants to be addressed and how are you interacting with your body right now?' And that tends to change from day to day and moment to moment."

That applies not only to cuddling, she said, but to life. "My hope is that my clients learn how to express themselves and what their desires are at the moment so that when they go out and they have relationships with others — romantic or other intimate relationships — that they've learned the skill of speaking up. ... You can't really consent to something if you don't know what you want."

Maybe that was my problem. I had not gone in with a particular cuddling desire. I had gone to see — and report on — what it was all about. And I'd left my hat on.

Certified cuddler Annie Hopson, right, with daughter Rebecca Hopson, left, on April 18 in Ellicott City, Md.

Bill O'Leary/The Washington Post

## WEEKEND: MUSIC

BY ALLISON STEWART  
Special to The Washington Post

**W**hen Liz Phair meets somebody, she can often tell right away what they know about her. Maybe they don't know much. But maybe they know that 25 years ago, she made "Exile in Guyville," one of the sharpest, boldest rock albums of its era, or any era.

An album that was stunningly accomplished and also rapaciously, almost gynecologically carnal — the latter is surely what people mostly remember about it now. For men who came of age in the mid-'90s, Liz Phair was their potty-mouthed dream girl. This presents Phair with a late-'10s problem.

"I think it's part of why I'm single," Phair says one day in March, over coffee near her home in the South Bay region of Los Angeles. "I'm not kidding. I filter out most options, because I can see in their eyes, they have an expectation. They're not really seeing me."

In person, Phair is huggy and likable and warm and, at 51, so utterly unchanged by the decades since "Guyville." She has been cool-person-famous for over half her life and can usually spot a guy who wants to go to bed with Liz Phair but is uninterested in waking up with Liz. "I don't want to be a notch on a belt. I think it's hard, once you've set a persona, to go back and get to know the person."

"Guyville" will be reissued May 4 as part of a lavishly appointed, seven-LP set titled "Girly-Sound to Guyville: The 25th Anniversary."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 37

# Still living in 'GUYVILLE'

Liz Phair looks back at the carnal work that made her an instant star 25 years ago

Liz Phair's "Exile in Guyville" will be reissued for its 25th anniversary May 4.

Elizabeth Weinberg for Matador Records

## WEEKEND: MUSIC

## FROM PAGE 36

At its rueful, defiant heart, it's an album about a 20-something trying to assert her place in the complicated underground world of men with guitars, constructed as a song-by-song response to the Rolling Stones' classic "Exile on Main Street."

Phair sees parallels between her treatment by the dismissive men of "Guyville" and the entrenched behavior recently called out by the #MeToo movement. "That impulse, to stand up for yourself and speak up when you're afraid to do so, is the core of what I feel like I battle every day," she says.

When Phair attended Oberlin College, it felt as though almost everyone she knew was in a band. Being a musician seemed approachable and not that hard. After a post-college stint interning for artists in New York, and for a brief period in San Francisco, Phair returned to the wealthy Chicago suburb of Winnetka, to the childhood home where her parents still live.

She settled into life as the cute, slightly obnoxious girl at the end of the bar, the one who was always trying to get somebody to buy her a drink. She tried to figure out what to do with her life. She had already begun tinkering with "Girly-Sound," the rudimentary but powerful series of bedroom recordings that would provide a blueprint for her debut.

Guyville was modeled after Wicker Park, a then-gentrifying neighborhood on the northwest side of Chicago, but it almost doesn't matter: Guyville is a state of mind.

"There's a million Guyvilles," Phair says. "It's in the studios, where you try to get movies made and cast. It's anyone being white-privileged, being whatever it is that gives you invisible safety or invisible benefits. 'Guyville' could be a catchphrase for any oblivious community that has no idea that they're shoving people to the side. I don't know where it isn't."

"Guyville" the album was born out of anger. At the men of Guyville, who, whenever she mentioned something she liked, would tell her what was wrong with that thing. At her own willingness to make herself smaller so they could be bigger. At her art history book, which featured almost no women.

Phair's songs eventually made their way to local producer Brad Wood, who was immediately struck the first time he listened. "I will never forget that feeling," he says. "As I walked home that night, my head was just spinning, trying to figure out how these great songs and cool lyrics could be recorded well. I kept thinking to myself, 'Don't screw this up.'"

Wood, Phair and engineer Casey Rice began working in fits and starts, and Matador



MARTY PEREZ/Courtesy of Matador Records

**Liz Phair in concert on tour for "Exile in Guyville." She found playing live uncomfortable, but her label threatened her with legal action if she didn't go on the road to promote the album.**

Records quickly signed Phair. She told almost no one she was making a record. None of her girlfriends from the neighborhood knew, and she never thought to mention it. Nor did she tell the men of Guyville, whose acknowledgment she so longed for in the first place. At some point, because she had to, Phair sat her parents down and played them her album.

"I think the most poignant thing was, my mom said, 'I didn't realize you were that sad,'" she says. "That just broke my heart. I didn't think of it as a sad record. Now I hear that. I hear the vulnerability, I hear the loneliness." "Guyville" landed with terrifying force. It was confrontational and conversational in ways that mainstream pop albums, at least ones made by women, weren't and still aren't. Most of its best lyrics — and at least one of its song titles — can't be printed in a newspaper such as this one.

"You listen to it now, and there's a frankness that's pretty uncommon, at least in pop songwriting," says Chris Brokaw, founder of the band Come and a friend of Phair's who was one of the first people to hear the "Girly-Sound" tapes. "It wasn't difficult to hear that in movies or in literature, but in pop songwriting, it was uncommon."

"Guyville" made Phair's life and also ruined it. The album barely scraped the bottom of Billboard's Top 200 chart, but it eventually sold about 500,000 copies. Phair went into rotation on MTV and made the cover of Rolling Stone.

To her, fame was foreign and surprisingly unwelcome. She was not used to performing live and had seldom done so, finding it terrifying and exposing and unnecessary. And it turned

out that the Wicker Park scenemakers whose approval she had sought never liked her very much in the first place and now liked her even less.

Her life seemed to be on the verge of crumbling. Her record label threatened her with legal action if she didn't tour. Her father, figuring his daughter was a financially successful rock star, took her off his health insurance. Phair was smoking a lot of pot and trying to avoid reality.

"I was, like, throwing checks on the desk and not even knowing where they were or cashing them. I was in some sort of stoner world of my own making." She struggled to understand what people wanted from her. "I made the record, that was all I needed to do for me. And suddenly I had this whole career."

Phair toured because she had to, but she was unhappy, onstage and off. (When describing the "Guyville" era, the word she uses most often is "traumatized.") Wood, who also played in Phair's band, was a struggling musician who had waited years to perform for people who were actually paying attention. He was not sympathetic to her plight.

"I tried to impress on Liz, 'This is a really great thing; it won't always be like this,'" Wood said. "I remember vividly her getting angry at me. She would say, 'I don't want to be this. This is fine for you guys, but this is not what I want.' I think she wanted to be left alone to work on her music and live her life and maybe go back to the way it was when she wasn't being recognized on the street."

One day, Phair saw a picture of herself in a book. She was wearing a silver dress, standing against a wall. "I was pretty much close to anorexic at that

point, and I remember looking at it and going, 'You look really f---ing thin.' I looked at it and thought, 'That's sort of what led me to get married. I shut it down and went into retreat.'"

Marriage was a way out, a one-way ticket back to the comfort of the suburbs. "I thought, 'OK, I'll go back to my upbringing and I'll be that girl.' I trained my whole life for that. I didn't train my whole life for this."

Phair married Jim Stas-kauskas, a film editor who had worked on one of her videos, and had a son, Nick, who is now 21. Marriage wasn't the refuge she had hoped for.

"I couldn't do the job of marriage, like, 'Now you're a married couple, you must throw dinner parties,'" she remembers. "It's not really me."

Phair had a reservoir of songs she dipped into to make "Guyville" and its 1994 follow-up, "Whip-Smart." By the time "Whitechocolatespaceegg," a mix of folk and psychedelic pop, was released in 1998, those reserves were diminished. It would be the last album made by the Liz Phair everyone had come to know.

Phair became a major label artist when Matador signed a partnership deal with Capitol Records. Matador eventually exited the deal, but Phair was stuck, marooned on a major label, facing the very real possibility that if she didn't make the album Capitol wanted, she wouldn't be allowed to make any albums at all.

"Liz Phair" released almost exactly 10 years to the day after "Guyville," wasn't just a pop album: It was an Avril Lavigne-style pop album, partly fashioned by producers the Matrix, who had previously worked with Lavigne and Hillary Duff and

whom the label had insisted on using.

She remains proud of the album, which put her in front of bigger audiences and produced her sole Top 40 hit, "Why Can't I?"

"My hardest part was helping the fans and the critics through their emotional process, their anger and betrayal," she says. "Hours of phoners: 'It's OK. You don't have to buy this music.' They felt betrayed, they felt that they had been tricked."

The backlash was swift and savage. Phair was seen as a desperate sellout whose short skirts were unbefitting for a mother in her mid-30s. ("They'll bury me in a miniskirt," Phair says now, sounding amused.) Pitchfork gave the album a rare 0.0 rating.

There was a growing sense that she had let her side down. That she had sent up a flare for all the women who lacked her platform, then abdicated that responsibility.

"Guyville" began to seem more and more like an accident. "I always knew where I came from," she says. "I knew how intentional 'Guyville' was, but I think they thought that was, like, a bedroom confession, and that I walked out and was like, 'Money! Power! Fame!'"

Phair recorded and released albums steadily throughout the '90s. She did some scoring work for TV shows, including the rebooted "20/20," but found it tough to break into scoring's top level, where the real money is.

Eventually, she began writing fiction. She is now working on two books for Random House. The first is a memoir of sorts, told in short stories; the second is a book of fairy tales. She hasn't released an album of new material since "Funstyle" in 2010. "I was laying low and being quiet," she says.

The reignited women's movement inspired her, and then the rerelease of "Guyville" brought her the rest of the way back. Phair doesn't view "Guyville" as a landmark in feminism, but more as a signpost on the road, a data point on a continuum that stretches behind her, from Debbie Harry and riot grrrls, and after her to Lilith Fair and Alanis Morissette and beyond. It's long been an article of faith that Morissette had the career Phair might have had if only she had cared more and tried harder.

"I remember when Alanis had that huge record and everyone was like, 'Aren't you pissed?' I wasn't, I was psyched. I opened for her. I wanted what we have now. She says, 'They're looking all the time, everywhere. It's not even a big deal anymore.'"

Female musicians today have a more level playing field than Phair ever dreamed of. "I don't think they know how bad it was," she says. "They're looking around and thinking, 'This still sucks.' But it's so much better."

**There's a million Guyvilles. It's in the studios, where you try to get movies made and cast. It's anyone being white-privileged, being whatever it is that gives you invisible safety or invisible benefits. "Guyville" could be a catchphrase for any oblivious community that has no idea that they're shoving people to the side. I don't know where it isn't.**

Liz Phair





## WEEKEND: BOOKS

# Texas from the inside

Author tells what he loves, hates about his native state

By MARION WINK  
Newsday

For a person who has spent the past 40 years trying to explain to other Yankees what's so great about Texas, the publication of "God Save Texas," the new work of nonfiction by Pulitzer Prize-winner Lawrence Wright ("The Looming Tower," "Going Clear") is a godsend. He does the job as thoroughly and concisely as anyone ever could, without neglecting to explain what is not so great about Texas, too.

A little backstory: In 1976, I went home over spring break with a college friend. At her parents' house in Dallas, we sat under a magnolia tree and drank Diet Dr Pepper, not then sold on the East Coast, out of a longneck glass bottle. Later, we drove down to Austin, and it was love at first sight. As a daughter of unloved New Jersey, even the mammoth ego of the place enchanted me. I lived in Austin for more than 20 years.

Of course, Austin has changed a lot since then, and Wright gives a characteristically well-formulated explanation of its glorious past and somewhat depressing present. "The very places that made Austin so hip are being demolished to make room for the hotels and office spaces needed to accommodate the flood of tourists and newcomers who have come to enjoy what no longer exists," he writes.

The book opens in San Antonio, where the author is taking a bike ride with his best friend, Stephen Harrigan, author of "The Gates of the Alamo." Wright explains that he once was a "self-hating Texan," the son of bankers in Dallas; "the only black person I knew was our weekly maid." He was deeply affected by the national revulsion against his hometown after the Kennedy assassina-

tion, though his conclusion is that "humiliation was exactly what Dallas needed."

After meeting his wife, Roberta, at the University of Texas, Wright went on to live in Atlanta and New York. Though he has long since come home to stay, his renewed loyalty is complicated by a profound criticism: "I think Texas has nurtured an immature political culture that has done terrible damage to the state and to the nation." That culture is explored at length.

Wright's treatment flows impressively from one topic to the next, incorporating material from his New Yorker and Texas Monthly articles, and introducing myriad characters in a cascade of crystalline sketches. Among the dramatic personae: Sam Houston and Davy Crockett, Richard Linklater and Alex Jones, LBJ and Lady Bird, Willie Nelson, Ann Richards, Larry McConaughey, Molly Ivins, Larry McMurtry and, of course, many a Bush.

Having touched on the Alamo and Texas' war for independence in early chapters, Wright later visits the Mexican border, making the point that Mexico and Texas are "like a couple still living next door to each other after a particularly bitter divorce."

One of my favorite chapters lays out Wright's three-part theory of culture. Level One is the nativist foundation, the basic qualities we recognize as Texan. This corresponds closely to the things I fell in love with in 1976, from the Tex-Mex cuisine to the macho cowboy mythology, from the bedrock social code of amiability to what Wright calls the "legendary qualities of boorishness, braggadocio, greed, and overall tackiness."

Level Two is the cosmopolitan overlay, where outside influences like Chekhov and sashimi come racing in and cities "have practically obliterated their own native charms in order to become showplaces of other people's ideas."

Level Three arrives when the culture revisits its origins, exemplified by a fancy Houston restaurant devoted to native Texas cuisines. Interestingly, this evolution seems to describe Wright's own development.



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## Sarvas took his time writing 'Memento Park,' about looted Nazi art

By AGATHA FRENCH  
Los Angeles Times

In author Mark Sarvas' Santa Monica, Calif., apartment hangs a print of Ernst Ludwig Kirchner's German Expressionist painting "Berlin Street Scene," which served as the inspiration for the fictional work of art at the heart of his second novel, "Memento Park."

The story of a second-generation Hungarian American's attempt to reclaim the valuable painting, which might have been looted from his father's family in Budapest during the Second World War, "Memento Park," says Sarvas, has been a long time coming.

In the mid-'90s, when he began publishing short fiction, his bio read, "Mark is working on his first novel." The book's subject matter? "Looted Nazi art."

"There was a moment where I saw pretty clearly that I wanted to do more with the book than I felt able to," Sarvas says. "So I thought, 'I'm going to put this in a drawer and not write it as my first book, because I'm not ready.'" Instead he debuted with

"Harry, Revised," which he called his "training novel." "Memento Park," he said, "feels like the book I was waiting to write." A dense, layered novel — part history, part mystery — it reckons with heritage, faith, fatherhood and the complications of confronting the past.



Sarvas was the voice behind early literary blog the Elegant Variation; in a 2008 interview, The Times' Scott Timberg described him as "acid fin-

gered," noting a simmering feud with fellow author Steve Almond, which Sarvas says has long been laid to rest. "Acid fingered, bad boy blogger," Sarvas shouldered his share of nicknames — and was happy to play the part. "People used to love getting the controversial quote out of me," he said, a little wistfully. "It's not that I'm being coy — I don't feel that scathing toward people anymore."

The experience of writing a

first novel, in which "he came to realize firsthand how much a person pours into that," softened Sarvas' tongue. Furthermore, he became a father, and between raising a child and teaching creative writing at UCLA Extension, he's moved away from criticism to mentorship. "Those things, they mellow you out a little. In private, with friends ... I'll still say stuff that'll make your hair stand on end," but those barbs remain behind closed doors, in part because the world feels saturated with them. "In this hateful cacophony of Twitter, I don't think it adds anything." "Memento Park" is written by a matured Sarvas, if not a chastened one; it's a personal book (Sarvas is the child of Hungarian Jewish immigrants and his protagonist, Matt Santos, winkingly shares his initials) that paints Gabor Santos, the character based on his father, unflinchingly. Sarvas waited to write the novel for that reason, too.

"When I knew that my father wouldn't be alive to see the finished book was the only time that I had the core to sit down and start writing it," he said. Simul-

taneously, "I had this awareness of losing access to a part of his past and to the story of who he was; because we didn't get along terribly well, we weren't super close, we didn't have those kinds of conversations."

The tension between examining his relationship with his father at the very moment that relationship began to slip irrevocably away became a central theme in the novel. "What happens when the past is gone forever? When you've waited too long to ask those questions, how do you move forward?"

One way, Sarvas discovered, is research. In the novel, Santos examines his lack of faith; to write about Judaism with authority, Sarvas took an 18-week introduction to Judaism course at the American Jewish University, primarily aimed at prospective converts. "I was the only Jew in this class, and they're all kinds looking at me like, 'Wait a minute, you're already in; why are you here?' But I knew next to nothing," he said.

Sarvas also traveled to Budapest, where he visited family, the house where his father was

raised and the open-air museum strewn with Soviet-era statues from which the book borrows its title.

"You walk around these fallen warriors and it's weirdly moving and there's something sort of beautiful about it in spite of all the repression and the horrors that we know it represented," he said. The trip confirmed his sense that, in some ways, the past is disconcertingly present. "These things that feel like they were vestiges of another era are alive and well and very much with us," said Sarvas.

In "Memento Park," the quest to reclaim a stolen painting is fraught with the weight of family secrets and history. It's a story of restitution that begs the question: Is storytelling a kind of restitution in and of itself? "Sometimes all that's left is the story," said Sarvas. "I found myself thinking, maybe this character, Gabor Santos, was my father's last gift to me." In turn, Sarvas gives it to us — and to his family. "My daughter never knew my father," he said, "but she'll know him through this book."

## WEEKEND: TELEVISION &amp; DVD

## NEW ON DVD

**"12 Strong":** The film from director Nicolai Fuglsig looks at the team of Special Forces soldiers from Fort Campbell, Ky., who travel to Afghanistan just weeks after the attacks on the World Trade Center in 2001. The real story is one of 12 heroic souls who through working with local war lords delivered a heavy blow to the Taliban.

Their story would have been enough to spotlight the accomplishment of the men. But, the screenplay by Ted Tally and Peter Craig — based on the book "Horse Soldiers: The Extraordinary Story of a Band of US Soldiers Who Rode to Victory in Afghanistan" by Doug Stanton — has been amped up to make the events look like the biggest military operation since the charge of the Light Brigade.

If all you want from a military movie is unrestrained action that will spark a wave of patriotism, then "12 Strong" fills the bill. But the movie could have been so much better if it had focused a little more on stories of the heart rather than tales of muscle.



WARNER BROS. ENTERTAINMENT/AP

**Chris Hemsworth, left, and Thad Luckinbill are in "12 Strong," now on DVD.**

**"Peter Rabbit":** Writer/director Will Gluck has taken the sweet story of a herd of rabbits — led by the spunky Peter (voiced by James Corden) — and turned it into a slapstick battle of wills.

Peter and the gang are living a freestyle life stealing all the food they want from the local garden. This changes when a new owner (Domhnall Gleeson) takes over the house with the garden and begins a war with the hares. This sets up a series of silly antics as man and bunny clash.

Fans of the original Beatrix Potter stories will find little comparison. This could have been a much better film had the story been as strong as the animation.

The only saving grace is the release comes with an all-new movie featuring Peter's sisters, Flopsy, Mopsy and Cottontail, narrated by Margot Robbie as Flopsy.

**Also out on DVD:**

**"Winchester":** Woman continues to build a house that becomes the home for dark spirits. Helen Mirren stars.

**"Followers":** Camping trip for social media couple (Amanda Delaney, Justin Malina) turns deadly.

**"Tremors: A Cold Day in Hell":** Burt Gummer (Michael Gross) and his son find themselves up to their ears in Graboids when they go to Canada to investigate deadly giant worm attacks.

**"All I Wish":** A woman (Sharon Stone) takes a long shot at doing good.

**"Please Stand By":** Woman with autism (Dakota Fanning) and a passion for Star Trek goes on a road trip full of discoveries.

**"Nostalgia":** Jon Hamm stars in this story of a group of people dealing with the loss of a loved one in their own way.

**"In Between":** Three Palestinian women sharing an apartment in Tel Aviv try to live independent lives while dealing with society's restrictions.

**"In the Fade":** Woman seeks her own justice after her husband and son are killed. Diane Kruger stars.

**"Dear Murderer: Series 1":** The series is based on the true story of New Zealand's criminal barrister Mike Bungay (Mark Mitchinson).

— Rick Bentley/TNS



istock photo

**Today's kids certainly aren't watching less television, but they're watching it in different ways. Cable TV networks for children are in a free fall, whereas the streaming service Netflix has 125 million subscribers.**

# The Netflix generation

## Children's TV networks in trouble as tykes tune out cable

By LUCAS SHAW  
Bloomberg

**K**ids like Caleb Moushey are killing cable TV.

Not that Caleb knows from cable. After all, he's 7 years old. But Caleb rarely if ever watches conventional television. "Everything is Netflix," said his mother, Ally Brown, an insurance agent in the St. Louis area who also has a 5-year-old and a baby on the way.

More and more kids are like Caleb. The cable networks for children, in decline for years, are now in a free fall. This season's ratings for the 2-to-11 set are shaping up to be the worst yet. Few in the industry predict a turnaround.

The implications are enormous for giants like Viacom and Walt Disney. Viewership of the three most-popular networks for the very young — Nickelodeon, the Disney Channel and the Cartoon Network — is down more than 20 percent this season from years earlier, according to data from Nielsen. It's a low point in a long-running trend as YouTube and other streaming services have taken off.

Media companies still make money from children's TV, with the most-watched cartoons spawning toy brands and licensing deals that can generate millions of dollars. So "the traditional brands are stuck in a tough position," said Birk Rawlings, who left Nickelodeon to run DreamWorksTV, a YouTube channel for children. "They can see what is changing, but to embrace what's new they must run away from a healthy business."

Rawlings was vice president of animation at Nickelodeon when its parent company, Viacom, committed what many in the industry consider the original sin: It licensed many of its kids shows in a package to Netflix in 2010. That arrangement allowed Netflix to lure customers with Nick's biggest hits, including

**In 2010, Viacom committed what many in the industry consider the original sin: It licensed many of its kids shows in a package to Netflix.**

"SpongeBob SquarePants."

At the time, Netflix had fewer than 20 million subscribers. Now, it has 125 million. Nickelodeon considers a show a hit if it draws 2 million or so viewers.

Meanwhile, the amount of time that the youngest watchers spent viewing conventional TV fell 30 percent between 2010 and 2017. And U.S. advertising sales for kids' networks haven't grown for five years, having plateaued at about \$1.2 billion annually. Disney and Nickelodeon declined to make executives available for interviews for this story.

Netflix is ramping up the competition further by bringing more youth-oriented production in-house. Last year, it hired Melissa Cobb away from a DreamWorks joint venture to run a kids and family

division, which just produced a new live-action series, "Alexa & Katie."

The company also poached two writers, Scott Thomas and Jed Elinoff, from Walt Disney Co.'s Disney Channel, where they recently created a follow-up to "That's So Raven." They're the first producers of children's programming to strike an exclusive arrangement to make shows for Netflix, according to people familiar with the matter who asked not to be named discussing a deal that hasn't been announced.

Disney, Nickelodeon and the Cartoon Network are playing catch up. Nick has a three-year-old streaming platform called Noggin. Time Warner's Boomerang online subscription service shows classics like "Looney Tunes," and Cartoon Network released videos from the popular show "Steven Universe" on its app before they appeared on TV.

Disney announced plans to yank its movies from Netflix and to make content based on Marvel comic books, "Star Wars" and its trove of animated characters for its own streaming service that will debut next year.

The pressure is on. The youngest entertainment-seekers are being raised on the internet, and cord-cutting will accelerate as new batches of babies joins them. The networks have to figure out how to make more money from the shows they produce, whether they're streamed or broadcast on the tube.

"We have to believe" the dollars "will catch up to the audience," said Christina Miller, head of Cartoon Network and Boomerang. "If it's the opposite, game over."

## WEEKEND: HEALTH &amp; FITNESS



A toned look requires not only low body fat, but also a genetic predisposition to having a fairly equal distribution of fat all over the body.

# 'It doesn't work that way'

## Why spot reduction is a myth when it comes to weight loss

By GABRIELLA BOSTON  
Special to The Washington Post

**W**e're here again: A couple of months from swimsuit season. And you might be looking in the mirror at any number of eyesores — beer belly, thigh rub, bra bulge, love handles, saddlebags — and asking: Can I get rid of that through exercise and diet?

In other words, spot reduction. “No, it doesn't work that way,” says Todd Miller, professor of nutrition and exercise sciences at George Washington University. “Fat in your body is like gas in your gas tank. Thinking you can reduce fat from your stomach alone is like saying you want to use gas only from the right side of your gas tank.”

Fat, just like gas in your car, is stored energy. It gets recruited equally from all over your body and sent to the muscles to be burned, Miller says.

But why then do we carry more of it in certain areas?

“Genetics is the most important determinant for where fat is stored,” says Scott Kahan, director of the National Center for Weight and Wellness. “Often we have relatively similar shapes as our parents.” Gender and age are also part of the equation, Kahan says. Men tend to carry more fat in the midsection, and women tend to have more around thighs and hips.

A toned look — let's say six-pack abs — requires not only low body fat but also a genetic predisposition to have a fairly equal distribution of fat all over the body. (Low body fat means roughly 15 percent for a woman and less than that for a man. In comparison, the American Council on Exercise lists 25 to 31 percent body fat as average for women; for men, 18 to 24 percent is average.)

In other words, Miller says, if you had two men standing side by side, both with 15 percent body fat, but one carries it evenly and the other doesn't, the former would be more likely to have the six-pack abs.

The best way to achieve 15 percent body fat? “Total body movements, high-intensity drills, adequate rest and a boring diet,” says Gabe Free, a personal trainer in the Washington area. When he was trying to trim fat, that meant a diet consisting of lean proteins and vegetables with a few cheat meals here and there. His breakfast every day was kale and eggs, and his favorite cheat meal was hamburgers. He kept up his usual workout routine, including dead lifts and squats.

“I didn't lose weight, but I leaned out,” he says. In other words, his body fat percentage — fat-to-muscle ratio — went down.

The reason total body movements (planks, squats, lunges, etc.) are more effective for weight loss and overall fitness than, say, crunches, is that using more large muscle groups requires more energy and builds more muscle, Free says. More muscle means a higher resting metabolic rate. But that has nothing to do with spot reduction. As Kahan puts it: “You can't do more squats and expect to lose weight around your thighs.” In other words, the proximity of fat to the exercise you're doing doesn't matter.

This is why the ever-present ads for various “ab busters” are misleading. The abdominals are a relatively small muscle group and don't require a lot of energy to be engaged, Free says.

“Ads manipulate you with that image — the lean model,” he says. “But the ab wheel or whatever it is didn't make the model look like that.” More likely, the model looks like that because of age, gender, con-

ditioning, nutrition and genetics (and maybe a little Hollywood magic). “It has nothing to do with the ab wheel,” Free says.

In fact, being overly focused on one muscle group can do more harm than good, Kahan says. It can create muscle imbalances. If the front of the body, including the abs, is too strong and the back is too weak, we get the hunched-over “cave man look.” Aside from being unattractive, that can also cause back pain.

Age is important, too, when it comes to body fat. As we get older, our lean body mass (muscle) tends to decrease, especially in men whose testosterone levels start dropping in their 40s, while fat increases. In aging women, inactivity seems to be more instrumental in fat gain than hormonal changes, Miller says.

The one thing that truly works for spot reduction, at least from an aesthetic standpoint, is liposuction and other medical procedures that remove fat and fat cells, Kahan says. But he doesn't promote liposuction because the procedure doesn't promote overall health benefits the way that healthy nutrition and exercise does, he says. “For example, it doesn't lower your blood pressure or your blood sugar.” And if it's not paired with healthier habits, liposuction tends to just shift the fat from one area to another.

Apart from surgery, fat cells never decrease no matter how many miles you run or how many pounds you bench-press. They are set in childhood and adolescence, and after that they just shrink or balloon depending on your habits.

The takeaway, then, for six-pack purposes and beyond, is that healthy habits are life-long — and the younger you start, the better.

## Herbal remedies being considered to treat anxiety

Mayo Clinic News Network

Several herbal remedies have been studied as a treatment for anxiety, but more research is needed to understand the risks and benefits. Here's what we know — and don't know:

**Kava.** Kava appeared to be a promising treatment for anxiety, but reports of serious liver damage — even with short-term use — caused the Food and Drug Administration to issue warnings about the use of dietary supplements containing kava. While these initial reports of liver toxicity have been questioned, use extra caution and involve your doctor in the decision if you're considering using products containing kava.

**Passion flower.** A few small clinical trials suggest that passion flower might help with anxiety. In many commercial products, passion flower is combined with other herbs, making it difficult to distinguish the unique qualities of each herb. Passion flower is generally considered safe when taken as directed, but some studies found it can cause drowsiness and confusion.

**Valerian.** In some studies, people who used valerian reported less anxiety and stress. In other studies, people reported no benefit. Valerian is generally considered safe at recommended doses, but since long-term safety trials are lacking, don't take it for more than a few weeks at a time, unless your doctor approves. It can cause some side effects such as headaches, dizziness and drowsiness.

**Chamomile.** Limited data shows that short-term use of chamomile is generally considered safe and can be effective in reducing symptoms of anxiety. But chamomile can increase the risk of bleeding when used with blood-thinning drugs. Use of chamomile can cause allergic reactions in some people who are sensitive to the family of plants that includes chamomile. Other members of this family are ragweed, marigolds, daisies and chrysanthemums.

**Lavender.** Some evidence suggests that oral lavender or aromatherapy with lavender can reduce anxiety; however, evidence is preliminary and limited. Oral lavender can cause constipation and headaches. It can also increase appetite, increase the sedative effect of other medications and supplements, and cause low blood pressure.

**Lemon balm.** Preliminary research shows lemon balm can reduce some symptoms of anxiety, such as nervousness and excitability. Lemon balm is generally well-tolerated and considered safe for short-term use, but can cause nausea and abdominal pain.

Herbal supplements aren't monitored by the FDA the same way medications are. If you're considering taking any herbal supplement as a treatment for anxiety, talk to your doctor first, especially if you take other medications.



## WEEKEND: FAMILY

## Is it wine o'clock yet?

## Social media suggests a problematic boozy mom culture

By KATE THAYER  
Chicago Tribune

**S**ocial media feeds are rife with memes depicting exhausted women guzzling wine in giant glasses, with phrases like, "Technically, you're not drinking alone if your kids are home." They refer to wine as "mommy juice" or to the hour of "wine o'clock" — a time that all moms apparently look forward to as a way to get through the stress of raising their children.

From Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, to movies and store shelves, a ubiquitous narrative has taken hold in popular culture: that it's acceptable, expected and funny for moms to use a glass — or more — of wine to make it through the day. Yet while many women share these images in jest and don't have a problem, addiction experts and those who have battled addiction themselves say the trend minimizes the dangers of drinking to excess.

"Mommy's wine has become a pop culture trend, a marketer's dream and a hashtag," said Dr. Crystal Tennille Clark, a psychiatrist and assistant professor at Northwestern's Feinberg School of Medicine who specializes in women's health. "I do know we're losing sight of what a problem (drinking) could be. Many people, whether they're men or women, don't appreciate the risks of drinking."

Hollywood perpetuates the storyline, and celebrities embrace it. Trips to the movie theater to see "Bad Moms" and its sequel, which celebrated boozy mom culture, were common "mom's night out" gatherings. Gabrielle Union's recent book of personal essays is titled "We're Going to Need More Wine," and Kelly Clarkson hosts an Instagram video series called "Minute and a Glass of Wine."

Marketers also are capitalizing on the trend, targeting mothers with products like dish towels and home decor featuring similar sayings. There are even brands of wine with "mommy" in their name.

But for those who have battled addiction, pop culture's fascination with moms and wine is no laughing matter.

Kelley Kitley was a seemingly successful wife and mother of four in Oak Park, Ill., who had her own social work practice and ran marathons.

She also was an alcoholic. After a childhood growing up above her parents' bar in Lincoln Park, where she had a front-row seat to others' excessive drinking, she pledged to never have a problem herself. Over the years, she would give up drinking for long stretches during her pregnancies, for Lent or just to see if she could.

But Kitley's occasional, social binge drinking eventually turned into a bottle-of-wine-a-day habit. After studying addiction as a graduate student, Kitley, now 40



istock photo

**The narrative that it's acceptable, expected and funny to use wine to make it through a mom's day has taken hold in popular culture.**

and five years sober, said it took her a while to recognize she had a problem and seek help. It seems like "everyone is drinking," she said, particularly busy moms like her.

Drinking alcohol can lead to myriad health problems, Clark said, including cancer, hypertension, stroke and liver failure.

Many people don't realize that just one glass of wine a day for women is considered moderate drinking, according to the Centers for Disease Control, Clark said. "Most people don't know that. They usually are just thinking they're 'drinking from the day,'" she said. "Unwinding can be fun to do socially. But we must be careful with it and drink responsibly."

Despite the fun portrayed on social media, drinking "isn't all it's cracked up to be," said Lori, a

to focus more on her family, she felt isolated and turned to drinking.

Lori said her drinking routine started out as something to look forward to at the end of a long day. But then it ramped up to a daily habit. She began to drink earlier in the day. Soon, she was sneaking down to her basement bar early in the morning to mix a drink before her family woke.

She said she hit rock bottom around the time her kids' school principal had to intervene when she showed up drunk at pickup time. Soon after, Lori checked herself into an in-patient treatment program after a friend's death made her realize she couldn't cope without alcohol.

Lori said she still feels resentful when she's around others who are drinking. It seems that alcohol is the focus of everything, on the internet and in life, from social events with friends to church functions, she said. "I've noticed it's getting worse."

Gabrielle Glaser, author of "Her Best Kept Secret: Why Women Drink — and How They Can Regain Control," said it's possible women feel more pressure than they once did. From demanding homework assignments to increased school security, parenting seems to have gotten more complicated, she said. The age of social media also heightens a desire to display domestic perfection to the outside world. Because drinking is already an accepted practice, it's easy to fall into the habit of using alcohol as a way to de-stress, she said.

"There's anxiety around being a mother," Glaser said, and "binge drinking has become completely normalized" as a way to have fun or blow off steam. "That starts in college and carries through to your first job," she added, and "it can easily be part of being a mother as well."

## THE MEAT AND POTATOES OF LIFE

Lisa Smith Molinari



## Daughter said no to the dress, prom traditions

**L**ast weekend, our youngest daughter, Lilly, went to senior prom. Three weeks before that, we had an epic mother-daughter argument in a TJ Maxx dressing room.

Having having swapped gowns for proms and military balls my entire life, I understood Lilly's insistence on borrowing formal dresses from friends. But this was Lilly's senior prom. Whether she wanted it or not, I was determined to buy her a new gown all her own. As luck would have it, we found a rack of formal dresses at TJ Maxx, and Lilly took a heap of them into the dressing room. One by one, she wriggled into the garments, struggling with zippers and straps. She hated them all, except for one.

"I like it," she said, head cocked sideways in the mirror. I tried to look apathetic. I knew better than to reveal an opinion, because Lilly would take the opposing view.

But this wasn't just any dress. It was classic — fitted tea-length lace, with delicate straps and a unique hemline. Stunning. I clamped my lips together to contain my excitement, and tried to act nonchalant.

After rejecting a second bundle of dresses, Lilly put the lace dress back on for another look.

"It's cool ... different, you know?" Lilly said.

"Definitely, and very flattering." Oops. In a moment of weakness, I let my opinion slip and jeopardized the entire process. I fiddled with some hangers and held my breath. "Actually, I'll just borrow a dress from Julia," Lilly concluded, peeling the blue dress off and tossing it into the reject heap.

"C'mon, Lilly, you just said you liked it!" I pleaded, but revealing my fondness for the dress had been the kiss of death.

"Everybody at school borrows dresses, Mom!"

"How is that possible? If no one ever bought new dresses, there'd be none to borrow!"

"You just don't understand!"

"Your mother wants to buy you a brand new dress, and somehow, this is a bad thing? You're right, I don't understand!"

It went round and round like this, until I stormed out, dramatically proclaiming that I would never buy Lilly another thing as long as I lived.

On prom night, Lilly got ready at Julia's house. I showed up at the school where the students were gathering for group photos, to see what she ended up wearing. I told myself that, even if she arrived in a burqa sack and a pair of Converse Chucks, I'd smile and take photos like a good mom.

I found Lilly's girlfriends giggling excitedly on the school grounds, all of them radiant in colorful gowns. I spotted Lilly wearing one of Julia's dresses. She approached sheepishly, but I had to admit, she looked lovely in the empire navy gown, her shimmering gold necklace reflecting her sandy blonde hair.

My eyes pricked as I welled with pride.

Just then, the boys arrived. I stood back to watch them like they were zoo animals. Lilly's date, a football player, was milling about, chewing gum with his hands in his pockets. He was wearing an outfit — a jacket emblazoned with stars and no tie — that screamed, "I'm just here for a good time." Although I had heard that he had a crush on Lilly, he didn't bother to say hello to her. Worse yet, he didn't say hello to me.

At midnight, Lilly came home reporting that she'd had a great time.

"Did you ever talk to your date?" I asked.

"Oh, sure, we ate dinner together. Then he left with his friends, and I danced a lot."

"Your date left with his friends?" I asked, incredulous.

Lilly assured me that this, along with girls borrowing dresses and boys wearing goofy jackets without ties, is perfectly normal teenage behavior today. Suddenly grateful for the hideous purple taffeta, tacky corsage and awkward slow dances at my own 1984 senior prom, I breathed a sigh of parental surrender.

"By the way," she said before going up to bed, "Nobody uses the term 'date' anymore. He was my 'prom ask.'"

I stand corrected.

Read more of Lisa Smith Molinari's columns at: [themeatandpotatoesoflife.com](http://themeatandpotatoesoflife.com)  
Email: [meatandpotatoesoflife@googlemail.com](mailto:meatandpotatoesoflife@googlemail.com)

**I do think we're losing sight of what a problem (drinking) could be.**

Dr. Crystal Tennille Clark  
psychiatrist and assistant professor  
at Northwestern's Feinberg School of Medicine

recovering alcoholic. For years, alcohol controlled her life, she said, adding that she doesn't understand the images that make light of excessive drinking or poke fun at the need to have alcohol.

"Why would you dress that up? You're just glamorizing things," said the 43-year-old Chicago mother of three, who asked that her last name not be used.

Before getting sober 3½ years ago, Lori said her drinking progressed in stages.

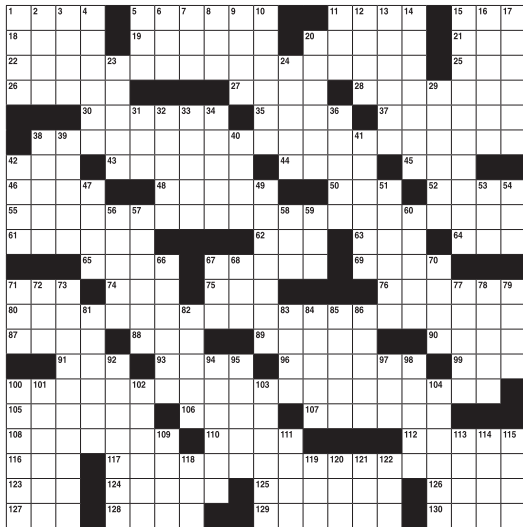
She would binge drink as a young adult for "special occasions" but didn't recognize it as a problem. Her drinking frequency picked up as life's pressures built, she said. She'd always been a working mom, and her job was a big part of her social network. When she left her career

# WEEKEND: CROSSWORD AND COMICS

## NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

**MIS-UNABBREVIATED**  
BY PETER WENTZ / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

- ACROSS**
- 1 Projects  
5 Nowhere close  
11 First name on the Supreme Court  
15 Delight  
18 Supercollider bit  
19 Online tracker  
20 Country whose capital lent its name to a fabric  
21 "\_\_\_ reading too much into this"  
22 Meadows filled with loos?  
25 Originally  
26 Bar that might be dangerous  
27 Ax  
28 Be agreeable  
30 Negligent  
35 Old letter opener  
37 Blotto  
38 Where sailors recover from their injuries?  
42 No longer edible  
43 Square figure  
44 Actor Paul of "There Will Be Blood"  
45 Lead-in to -tainment  
46 Quashes  
48 Chart again  
50 Checkpoint offense, for short  
52 Gusto  
53 Goings-on in accelerated classes?  
61 "My man"  
62 Subject for The Source magazine
- 63 Sch. of 30,000+ on the Mississippi  
64 Bill's support  
65 It dethroned Sophia as the No. 1 baby girl's name in the U.S. in 2014  
67 Home for a Roman emperor  
69 Onetime Bond girl \_\_\_ Wood  
71 "So obvious!"  
74 Common core?  
75 Like  
76 Prime-time time  
80 Dog that doesn't offend people?  
87 Come down hard, as hail  
88 Barnyard male  
89 First name on the Supreme Court  
90 Dreyfus Affair figure  
91 Subject for Ken Burns, briefly  
93 Burg  
96 Went by air?  
99 Dorm monitors  
100 Cry of devotion from a non-academy student?  
105 Source of the line "They shall beat their swords into plowshares"  
106 Things that may be rolled or wild  
107 Soprano Tebaldi  
108 Some fasteners  
110 They aid in diagnosing A.C.L. tears  
112 Funny face?  
116 Old White House nickname
- 117 Morning-zoo programming?  
123 Panama City state: Abbr.  
124 Substantive  
125 "Don't doubt me!"  
126 Clue  
127 Divinity sch.  
128 Chatty bird  
129 Provider of aerial football views  
130 Actress Kendrick
- DOWN**
- 1 Best Picture nominee with three sequels  
2 Pac-12 school that's not really near the Pacific  
3 Completely, after "in"  
4 Like wet makeup  
5 Media watchdog group  
6 Parent co. of HuffPost  
7 Hundred Acre Wood denizen  
8 Agrees to  
9 Lord's domain  
10 Fixation  
11 Slice for a Reuben  
12 Things that have slashes  
13 With nothing out of place  
14 "What other explanation is there?!"  
15 Former "Today" show host  
16 Word before pan or after Spanish  
17 Investment figures  
20 GMC truck  
23 Like poor months for oysters, it's said
- 24 Mentally wiped  
29 Stiff  
31 Sch. with an annual Mystery Hunt  
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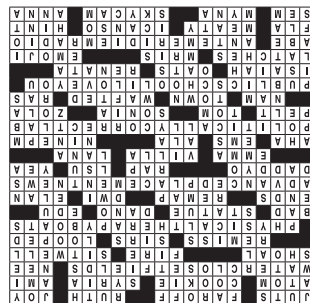
- 78 Micronesian land  
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121 That: Sp.  
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## FACES



# All in the family



WARNER BROS. PICTURES/AP

From left, Adria Arjoni, Melissa McCarthy and Molly Gordon star in "Life of the Party," due in theaters May 11. The movie is produced by McCarthy and her husband Ben Falcone's company.

## McCarthy and husband Falcone making movies together

By LINDSEY BAHR  
Associated Press

**M**elissa McCarthy hasn't had a movie in theaters since "Ghostbusters" two years ago, but it's not like she's been taking a break.

She's been hard at work preparing multiple projects with her husband, Ben Falcone (not to mention her side gig parodying Sean Spicer on "Saturday Night Live"). Two of their films hit theaters this summer. One is about a woman attending college with her daughter, and the other has a scene in which McCarthy's character does drugs with a hoard of degenerate puppets.

Both "Life of the Party" (May 11) and "The Happytime Murders" (Aug. 17) are produced by McCarthy and Falcone's company, On the Day, which they formed just over five years ago, making movies like "Tammy" and "The Boss," both of which McCarthy starred in and Falcone directed, and the television series "Nobodies." The endeavor allows them to have more control in choosing what they spend their time on. It also allows them to spend time together, especially in the scriptwriting stage.

"Melissa and I have been sort of busy lately, and it's actually a great chance for us to sit together in a room and try to make each other laugh," Falcone said. "I always say I'm sort of the boring structure guy and she's the one who has all the fun stuff."

"Life of the Party" is about a woman who is going through a divorce and trying to get her life back on track by getting her college degree (at the same college her daugh-



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ter is attending). It was inspired by their parents, and both of their dads are in the movie.

Falcone, who directed, had the initial idea, remembering times when his father would join him at college parties. McCarthy took the pitch another way. "I was like, 'Oh, that would be great.' And he's like, 'What?' And I was like, 'I'd love to go to school with Viv and Georgie,'" McCarthy said. "He's like, 'They don't want you in college with them!'"

Neither has seen the finished product of "The Happytime Murders," but distributor STX showed a trailer at the industry convention CinemaCon of the very R-rated comedy from director Brian Henson (son of Jim Henson). McCarthy plays a human detective who is teamed up with a puppet partner to investigate some grisly puppet murders. It makes "Ted" look tame.

Despite the success of their films, they keep their shop small — it's basically McCarthy, Falcone and a production executive, and that's the way they like it.

"Liz Banks, our friend, is a total mogul. (She and her husband) are like mighty power wielders. And that's a cool way to go, too, and I love the stuff that they're putting out there, but I like having a smaller amount of stuff that I have a handle on," Falcone said.

"I guess I'm a control freak."

McCarthy, who says she's learned a lot from just sitting in the editing room, loves having the ability to pick and choose and craft roles that she finds interesting.

"I read so many things for so many years and I just thought, it's just not that interesting to watch people be perfect," she said. "I don't really know perfect people. All the people I know and love are terribly weird and flawed, myself included, the friends we love are just a combination of ticks and eccentricities and all that stuff. I think for a long time we were having women play perfect — in the perfect job and a perfect-looking person and the perfect mother and I just keep thinking, 'Oh, we're so much more interesting. We can show all of our different sides and you can still root for them. In life those are the women we love, so why not show it in movies?'"

This summer, Falcone and McCarthy will start shooting "Super-Intelligence," an "apocalyptic end-of-days love story," and they have a musical in the near future, too. Later this fall McCarthy will take a dramatic turn as literary forger Lee Israel in Marielle Heller's "Can You Ever Forgive Me?"

And McCarthy hopes to get in the director's seat herself — she directed episodes of her TV show "Mike & Molly" and a short Walmart ad that showed the night of the Oscars — but hasn't found the right story for her feature debut.

"It's intimidating, but I would love to give myself that challenge," she said. "It's definitely something I think about. When I read stories, it's always in the back of my head."

## Hulu unveils programming news

It's two TV shows and a streaming service for Mindy Kaling — at least that best describes the multi-hyphenate's growing relationship with Hulu.

The streaming company has given a series order to Kaling's TV adaptation of "Four Weddings and a Funeral" — one of a number of new programming announcements Hulu made Wednesday morning at its NewFront presentation in New York.

"Ramy," a half-hour comedy based on the life of comedian Ramy Youssef that will explore what it's like to be an Egyptian-American Muslim living in New Jersey, also received a series order. Youssef, who co-created and co-wrote with Ari Katcher and Ryan Welch, will star in the series.

The company also unveiled Wednesday the narrative device behind its new year-round horror event series from producer Jason Blum's independent TV studio, Blumhouse Television. "Into the Dark" premieres Oct. 5 and will consist of 12 standalone feature-length episodes. Each installment will be inspired by a holiday from the month of its release and will roll out the first Friday of every month throughout the year.

## Other news

■ Tom Arnold's obsession with President Donald Trump's past is becoming a television series. Vice Media said Wednesday that it is starting production on a series with the comedian called "The Hunt for the Trump Tapes." Arnold said he wants to look for material left in the president's past and probably in entertainment company vaults. He announced it on Howard Stern's SiriusXM show. Stern is in possession of some intriguing Trump tapes of his own, based on the president's appearances on the DJ's show.

■ "Empire" is returning for a fifth season, Fox announced Wednesday. The popular drama is one of the season's top broadcast dramas among adults ages 18 to 49, Fox said. Its fourth season had the second-largest audience across Fox's platforms, with an average of 11.3 million viewers for the season. The series has also earned multiple Emmy and Golden Globe nominations.

■ HBO has renewed its futuristic theme-park drama "Westworld" for a third season. The show debuted in 2016, becoming one of HBO's most-watched new series, network executives said.

■ George Harrison's first electric guitar is up for auction. Julien's Auctions says Harrison played the Hofner Club 40 when the Beatles played around Liverpool, England, as the Quarrymen. A 1965 Fender Telecaster owned by The Band's Robbie Robertson played by Harrison, Eric Clapton and Bob Dylan is also on the block. The auction is at New York's Hard Rock Cafe on May 19.

■ Diane Neal is seeking a new gig as representative of a congressional district in upstate New York. The 42-year-old Neal portrayed Assistant District Attorney Casey Novak on "Law and Order: SVU." Now she's launching her active campaign Wednesday for the 19th Congressional District. She has lived there for four years and announced her independent candidacy in February.

■ Super model Paulina Porizkova and model Ric Ocasek have separated after 26 years of marriage. Porizkova announced on Instagram on Wednesday they have not been a couple "for the past year." The pair first met while filming a music video in 1984 and were together last month when 74-year-old Ocasek was inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland.

■ Rapper Juicy J Santana has been indicted on weapons charges after authorities say he tried to bring a gun on a plane at Newark Liberty International Airport. Federal prosecutors say the two-count indictment made public Wednesday charges Santana with possession of a firearm by a convicted felon and carrying a weapon on an aircraft. His name was not immediately available to comment Wednesday.

From wire reports



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## OPINION

## Trump's still a grifter, just now he's president

By MAX BOOT

The Washington Post

Critics of President Donald Trump, including me, have regularly compared him to authoritarian rulers such as Viktor Orban and Vladimir Putin. But a more apt comparison was with Jordan Belfort or Frank Abagnale. Who? you ask.

Belfort is the high-flying Wall Street stockbroker who was convicted of fraud and subsequently had his life story dramatized by Martin Scorsese in "The Wolf of Wall Street." Abagnale is the con artist who pretended to be a doctor and airline pilot, among other disguises. His life story was told by Steven Spielberg in "Catch Me If You Can." That title appears more appropriate for the Donald Trump life story as more of the president's scams come to light.

Just this week, Trump's personal doctor, Harold Bornstein, said he did not write the glowing letter attesting to Trump's "astoundingly exceptional" health that was released under his signature last December. "He dictated the whole letter," Bornstein said. That will come as no shock to anyone familiar with Trump's self-aggrandizement and ignorance of history, given that the letter claimed, "If elected, Mr. Trump, I can state unequivocally, will be the healthiest individual ever elected to the presidency."

It is precisely the fact that this fraud — if that's what it was — is so typical of Trump that this disclosure has received so little attention. Imagine the hyperventilation that would have ensued if Hillary Clinton had been caught deceiving the public about her health — an issue Trump and his acolytes harped on during the campaign.

By MARCO RUBIO

Special to The Washington Post

As U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and other officials head to Beijing this week for high-stakes trade talks with Chinese counterparts, they seek to correct an economic relationship with China that has become increasingly unbalanced — and, over the long term, dangerous — for the United States and other nations. U.S. lawmakers will soon vote on legislation. Since joining the World Trade Organization in 2001, China has offered an economic grand bargain with two contradictory faces.

One face outwardly offers soaring and seductive promises of an emerging global economy that will become more open and equitable as nations increase trade and commerce with China. Witness Chinese President Xi Jinping, who at the 2017 World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, gushed at how "mankind has become a close-knit community of shared future" while warning it will become more "integrated and indivisible." He committed to a fundamental policy of opening up and pursues a win-win opening-up strategy.

The other face speaks inwardly to China's ultimate geopolitical intentions. As the 13th National People's Congress met in February, Xi install Xi as effectively president for life. Xi vowed to wage a bloody battle against our enemies — including any nation that obstructs the "Chinese dream of national rejuvenation" — "with a strong determination to take our place in the world."

Far too many countries, including the United States, have ignored the contradictions of China's grand bargain on the

Another Trump fraud was uncovered recently when former Forbes journalist Jonathan Greenberg recounted in The Washington Post how Trump lied his way onto the magazine's list of the wealthiest Americans. Trump called Greenberg to brag about his riches while pretending to be his own PR man — John Barron — a trick he had pulled before. Greenberg knew Trump was exaggerating but not by how much. He wrote, "In our first-ever list, in 1982, we included him at \$100 million, but Trump was actually worth roughly \$5 million — a paltry sum by the standards of his super-monied peers."

It was not just a matter of vanity for Trump. Appearing wealthy made banks more likely to lend to him and business partners more likely to make deals with him. Trump was actually worth roughly \$5 million — a paltry sum by the standards of his super-monied peers."

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Let another apparent Trump scam has come to light concerning his supposed sex appeal prowess. Jill Brooke, the reporter behind the New York Post's famous "Best Sex I've Ever Had" front page in 1990, says the headline came about when Trump called her and demanded a story to counteract the positive coverage that the Daily News was giving to his estranged wife, Ivana, in their divorce battle. "Marla [Maples] says with me it's the best sex she's ever had," Trump

told her on the telephone, referring to his mistress who would soon become wife No. 2. For confirmation, Trump shouted, "Didn't you say it's the best sex you ever had with me?"

According to the Daily Beast: "A faint 'yes, Donald' was heard in the background and the headline wrote itself to become part of history. Brooke said it was only later she discovered Trump was prone to impersonating associates on the phone, and so she is now unsure if Trump's second wife ever said any such thing."

If this was indeed another racket, it wasn't just about feeding Trump's insatiable ego. His image as a lady-killer added to his aura of all-around success, which he used to peddle all sorts of tchotchkes to glibble consumers. As The Post notes, "There was Trump deodorant. Trump ties. Trump slacks. A Jordan Belfort or Frank Abagnale — at one time, there was even a Trump-branded urine test."

Trump has set new records for mendacity while in office. The Post reports that he has made more than 3,000 false or misleading claims since the inauguration, and that his rate of deception has increased from 19 to 61 falsehoods a day.

Does any of this matter? From a political perspective, probably not. Voters knew what sort of huckster Trump was when they elected him. But it should give us pause to consider what it says about America, circa 2018, that so many of us are so ready to accept a Jordan Belfort or Frank Abagnale — a con man, in other words — as our leader.

Max Boot, a Washington Post columnist, is the Jeanie J. Kirkpatrick senior fellow for national security studies at the Council on Foreign Relations in Washington, D.C. He is also a senior fellow at the Heritage Foundation and the American Tragedy in Vietnam."

## Targeting China's tools of economic aggression

assumption that China would liberalize economically and politically. Unfortunately, this starry-eyed assumption has proved false. Benefitting enormously from a more open global economy to drive its own industries, the Chinese government and Communist Party have only tightened their grip on power, brutally suppressing dissent at home and pursuing policies abroad that are a far cry from the responsible global stakeholder that Xi describes.

The American people can see China's malevolent economic behavior most clearly in its theft of our intellectual property. China's theft of American IP alone costs the U.S. nearly \$600 billion annually, eclipsing the combined profits of the top 50 companies on last year's Fortune 500 list.

Stealing American IP, in turn, advances Beijing's "Made in China 2025" initiative to eventually dominate global exports in 10 critical sectors, including artificial intelligence and next-generation information technology, robotics, new-energy vehicles, biotechnology, energy and power generation, aerospace, high-tech shipping, advanced railway, new materials and agricultural machinery. These targets reveal China's theft of American IP alone costs the U.S. nearly \$600 billion annually, eclipsing the combined profits of the top 50 companies on last year's Fortune 500 list.

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As the U.S. delegation negotiates with China over trade relations, we should further strengthen America's position by making

China's unwillingness to deal on issues of substance as painful as possible.

That's why next week I will introduce the Fair Trade With China Enforcement Act to guard the American people against China's nefarious influence on national and economic security, directly targeting China's tools of economic aggression.

The legislation would ban the sale of all sensitive technology or intellectual property to Chinese entities and impose a shareholding cap on Chinese investors in American corporations to prevent undue influence on corporate governance. This includes an earlier bill that Sen. Tom Cotton, R-Ark., and I introduced to prohibit the federal government from purchasing or leasing telecommunications products from the Chinese firms Huawei and ZTE, given growing U.S. scrutiny about the dangers those companies pose to our critical information networks.

In addition, the legislation will propose to amend the 1984 income tax treaty with China to impose a withholding tax on Chinese entities earning investment and dividend income in the United States. The goal is to discourage Chinese behemoths seeking to devalue currencies, price out American exports and drive capital imbalances that make our economy weaker and less stable.

The legislation would also impose duties on Chinese capital goods in the sectors targeted by the "Made in China 2025" plan — to ensure that American buyers do not inadvertently finance China's long-term efforts to displace our manufacturing.

The details of our ultimate deal with China matter greatly. The Chinese government and Communist Party are playing the long game, and we should, too.

Marco Rubio, a Republican, represents Florida in the U.S. Senate.

## OPINION

## What newspapers are saying at home

The following editorial excerpts are selected from a cross section of newspapers throughout the United States. The editorials are provided by The Associated Press and other statewide syndicates.

An insane amount of red flags  
USA Today

The vast majority of Americans, including ardent Second Amendment defenders, agree that people with serious mental illness shouldn't have access to a firearm.

And yet it keeps happening with regularity and the most tragic consequences.

In a Waffle House last month outside Nashville, Tenn., a deeply disturbed man with an assault-style rifle randomly killed four people — three men and a woman, all in their 20s. The victims were a musician, a student in social work, a cook saving money to start a family and a 20-year-old home appliance installer who had just texted his mother about how much he loved her.

The accused gunman, 29-year-old Travis Reinking, had a long and open history of aberrant behavior and even lost his legal right to own a firearm last August after an incident outside the White House.

In two years leading up to the shooting, Reinking had threatened suicide, menaced an employee of his father's crane company with his AR-15, complained to police about singer-songwriter Taylor Swift hacking his phone and dove into a public pool wearing a pink woman's housecoat.

Flags don't get much redder than that. So what loophole allowed him to take up deadly force? After the White House incident, when Reinking had to surrender his gun owner's license to sheriff's deputies in Illinois, where he lived at the time, his four gun rights — the AR-15 simply went to his father, Jeffrey, who held the necessary license.

"We had no legal justification to seize the weapons," Tazewell County Sheriff's Chief Deputy Jeffrey Lower said. "We cannot seize property without a warrant or a criminal conviction."

Instead, deputies warned the father to keep guns away from his son. That didn't happen.

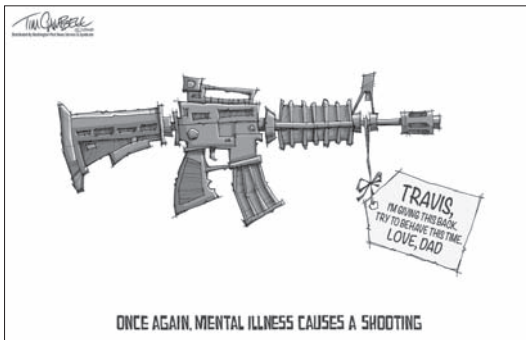
The overwhelming majority of people with mental illness are not violent. But Reinking's actions show how many ranks of those clearly known to be emotionally unstable and threatening, and who still manage to arm themselves and commit slaughter.

They include Seung Hui Cho, who killed 32 at Virginia Tech in 2007; Jared Loughner, who shot Sen. Gabrielle Giffords and 18 others in 2011; Aaron Alexis, who gunned down 12 at the Washington Navy Yard in 2013; Esteban Santiago, who left five dead at the Fort Lauderdale, Fla., Airport last year; and high school shooter Nikolas Cruz, who ended 17 lives on Valentine's Day in Parkland, Texas.

Federal gun laws disqualify the mentally ill from owning firearms only if they have been involuntarily committed by a court — a high bar that fails to cover many of the deranged and dangerous. An Obama-era regulation, adding mental health information to background checks of people to the national gun background check system, was reversed in a bill signed by President Donald Trump last year.

The good news is that "red flag" laws are cropping up across the country. These allow law enforcement to obtain a court order seizing firearms from a person whose mental condition renders them a clear menace.

Given Reinking's tragic circumstances, these laws need to require that seized guns be kept by law enforcement or a federally licensed firearms dealer, and not merely turned over to a relative who might give them back to their troubled loved one.

Not a good look for the NFL  
The Washington Post

Two former National Football League cheerleaders who have filed discrimination complaints against the league's efforts to settle their claims. They don't want a lot of money or even an admission of guilt. All they are asking for is the chance to sit down for a four-hour meeting with NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell. It's hard to see how the league could turn down the offer — unless, of course, it's really serious when it says its commitment to a fair and respectful work environment includes the women who cheer on the sidelines.

A settlement proposal crafted by the lawyer representing former New Orleans Saints cheerleader Bailey Davis and former Miami Dolphins cheerleader Kristian Ware offers to settle all their claims for just \$1 each if Goodell agrees to meet them in "good faith." The purpose of the meeting, which would include two other yet-to-be-selected cheerleaders, would be to negotiate leaguewide reforms of the outdated rules and regulations affecting cheerleaders. Implementation of change, though, would not be a condition. "I understand that they could meet with us, patronize us and do nothing in the end," the women's attorney, Sara Blackwell, told The New York Times. "But it's a risk we're willing to take to try to have real change."

Complaints filed by Davis, with the federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, and Ware, with the Florida Commission on Human Relations, contend that the NFL maintains different standards for its male employees and its female ones. The cases — notably that of Davis, who was fired after posting a photograph of herself in a lace leotard on her private Instagram account — have brought new attention to the treatment of cheerleaders. A series of reports by the Times has detailed the indignities they face, including extremely low pay, long hours and sexual harassment — sometimes physical — from fans.

Most appalling was the account of some cheerleaders for the Washington [Redskins] of a 2013 trip to Costa Rica for a calendar photo shoot. They said they were posed topless or in body paint in front of an all-male audience of team sponsors and stadium suite holders. Some said they were later required to accompany sponsors to a nightclub. The director of the cheerleading squad disputed much of the account, and a statement from the team touted the program as "one of the NFL's premier teams in participation, professionalism, and community service."

When the headline cheerleading featuring attractive women in provocative attire is integral to the enjoyment of football or a sexist relic of the past is a matter for debate. Six NFL teams do not have cheerleading squads, some for philosophical reasons and one to avoid the impact of a class-action lawsuit over pay. What shouldn't be an issue is that the women who do choose

to do this work shouldn't be treated like second-class citizens or — as Washington cheerleaders alleged to the Times — sexually exploited.

Tough for women to go it alone  
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Bill Cosby is no more a stand-in for all men than Andrea Constand is representative of all women — except for the moment last week when a jury delivered a guilty verdict against Cosby on three counts of indecent assault.

At that moment, scores of women likely felt at least a twinge of vindication for their own experience of confronting an abuse of power at the hands of men. Such systemic abuse isn't always sexual — but the kind of indecent assault Cosby was found guilty of is the extreme end of the mismanaged power dynamic between men and women.

Consider that it took Constand 14 years of indignity to find justice, from her 2004 attack to last week's verdict.

In 2005, then-Montgomery County District Attorney Bruce Castor declined to prosecute Cosby following Constand's allegations, prompting her to bring a civil action against Cosby in federal court. That led to a confidential settlement agreement, aired in a trial where his defense attorneys painted Constand, who received \$3.4 million, as a gold digger.

Risa Ferman reopened the Cosby investigation in 2015. At the time, Castor was running for D.A. against Ferman's first deputy, Kevin Steele. The case became part of a nasty race. Constand sued Castor for defamation. Castor, who lost the election, countered Constand.

Constand endured two trials, circumscribed media exposure, social vilification and public humiliation. Her experience with Cosby at his home was unique, but her treatment afterward is a writ-large version of how many women in her situation are vilified by the courts, law enforcement and society.

Many will claim this is the first criminal conviction related to the #MeToo protests. But Constand's experience predates the movement and speaks to a more troubling truth. While the #MeToo movement might have opened the floodgates of sordid stories and reveals how ubiquitous the experience of such abuses of power are, the outcome of Cosby's trial underscores the sad truth that the voice of a single woman too often isn't enough.

Cosby's first trial in 2017 ended with a deadlocked jury and was declared a mistrial. When the second trial in 2018 was the first trial, testimony from only one other accused was allowed. This time, the courts allowed five other women — out of a total of 60 accusers — to testify.

Sixty accusers. That can be taken as evidence that when you're a woman, too many times your single voice doesn't have the power against a serial assaulter, whether

his name is Cosby, Weinstein or one less famous.

Too many times one woman doesn't have credibility to take on the institutionalized abuses of power that many men take as their due.

The Cosby verdict may herald a new day, a true turning point that says abusive behavior and sexual entitlement will no longer be tolerated. But the real turning point would be the recognition that #MeToo is not as effective as #WeToo — that there is safety in numbers, which women navigating the world have always known.

Hopeful words from Koreans  
Boston Herald

We are in a good place when it comes to North Korea, historically speaking, and the table is set for President Donald Trump in the much-anticipated summit between our countries in the coming weeks.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and South Korean President Moon Jae-in resolved during their meeting to achieve "a nuclear-free Korean Peninsula through complete denuclearization."

Additionally, both Koreans agreed to advance the official end of the Korean War. On July 27, 1953, an armistice, or ceasefire, was signed but no other formality was put in place to permanently prevent the hostilities from resuming.

The meeting was remarkable to watch, with the two men smiling, holding hands and walking across the border into the North and then the South. No North Korean leader had been in the South since the end of the Korean War.

At the meeting Kim spoke to the skepticism around the North's trustworthiness, saying, "We have reached big agreements before but were unable to fulfill them. ... There are skeptical views on whether the meeting today will yield meaningful results. If we maintain a firm will and proceed forward hand in hand, it will be impossible for things to get worse than they are now."

It's a start. And a pretty good one.

That we have gotten this far is due in large part to the Trump administration's hard work, and the president was instrumental in the summit coming to fruition. South Korean Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha told CNN, "Clearly, credit goes to President [Donald] Trump. He's been determined to come to grips with this from day one."

On his upcoming meeting with Kim, Trump coolly said, "We're not going to be played. OK? We're going to hopefully make a deal; if not that's fine."

Things are in motion on the Korean Peninsula and we'll see if Trump can achieve something wonderful for the world. This president has eschewed the previous Korean Foreign Ministers' "strategic patience" and moved forward with a bigger, bolder and more expedient plan.

Last Friday, in his speech at the Peace House on the border of the Demilitarized Zone, Kim Jong Un remarked, "It took a long time for the two Koreas to come to long-term peace. But this time, I have waited for this moment to happen, all of us. As I stand here today I can see that South and North Koreans are the same people, they cannot be separated. We are compatriots. We should not be confronting each other, we are the same people and should make a deal that opens the way for us to live very peacefully in the future, as soon as possible."

At the moment, these words are just that, words, coming from a dictator who presides over prison camps and political assassinations. But they offer a ray of hope. Make a deal that opens the way for the parties involved and we should take care to be patient and demand real changes from the regime that has long terrorized the region and its own people. But we must also acknowledge that something very special is underway. Let's hope that Trump can make a deal that opens the way for a bright future on the Korean Peninsula.

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Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



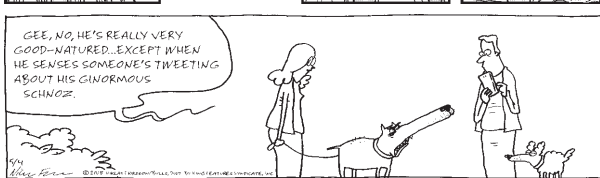
Non Sequitur



Candorville



Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



# Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13			14			
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				45			46			
48	49	50	51						52	
53						54			55	
56						57			58	

## ACROSS

- 1 Day light?
- 4 Trio after Q
- 7 Short skirts
- 12 Nevertheless, briefly
- 13 Greek H
- 14 Computer symbols
- 15 Ump's call
- 16 Economic declines
- 18 Swiss canton
- 19 Dunkable treat
- 20 Tart flavor
- 22 Workout site
- 23 Warm and snug
- 27 Salt Lake athlete
- 29 Third-place medal
- 31 Colonial newscaster
- 34 Hooch
- 35 Chinese food assortment
- 37 Have a bug
- 38 Leopard's feature
- 39 Right angle
- 41 Ump's call
- 45 Follows
- 47 Crater part
- 48 Rejects
- 52 Tokyo's historic name
- 53 Guam's capital
- 54 PBS funder
- 55 Profit
- 56 Root (for)
- 57 NASCAR advertiser
- 58 Hearty brew

## DOWN

- 1 Portly
- 2 "Star Trek" lieutenant
- 3 Away from the office
- 4 Sitcom star Fox
- 5 Fall guy
- 6 Light brown
- 7 Baseball glove
- 8 Hosp. area
- 9 Fish-fowl link
- 10 Hostel
- 11 Sound from a hot wok
- 17 Feeling no pain
- 21 Invite
- 23 Puts in the fridge
- 24 Lennon's lady
- 25 Snoring, in comics
- 26 "—hawl!" (rodeo cry)
- 28 Capote nickname
- 30 Slugger's stat
- 31 LPs' successors
- 32 Shred
- 33 "As I see it," to a texter
- 36 Anthropologist Margaret
- 37 Totally wrong
- 40 They have their pride
- 42 Concert venue
- 43 Cuba's Castro
- 44 Overact
- 45 Despot
- 46 Crisp cookie
- 48 Tic —-toe
- 49 "Yeech!"
- 50 Arctic explorer John
- 51 SSW opposite

## Answer to Previous Puzzle

R	A	M	J	U	D	E	A	L	S	O
U	M	A	O	P	A	L	L	E	A	D
M	A	L	A	S	I	A	L	I	N	E
A	R	F	S	T	R	E	A	K	S	
C	O	M	E	U	P	E	K	G		
A	B	U	L	A	D	O	R	A	T	E
R	O	T	S	D	E	W	O	B	E	Y
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			A	T	A	D	E	M	O	N
C	H	E	R	U	B	S	H	A	R	
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O	R	S	O	D	U	A	L	A	N	I
C	R	E	W	E	G	A	D	L	E	T

## 5-4

## CRYPTOQUIP

EIA GWU CUKKRM T OU CFGC

MIQIVE PGM CUOSIWGRKE

HCIS CFGC OGPFRMU? FUE,

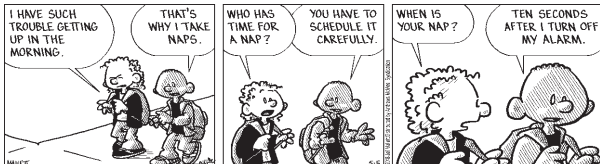
GMECFRMT RH SGAHGQKU!

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN THERE WAS A HUGE CRISIS ON THE ALL-BEAGLE SHIP, THE CAPTAIN BARKED "ALL HOUNDS ON DECK!"

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: C equals T



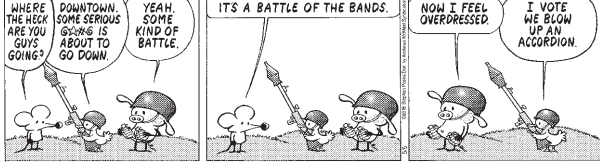
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Pearls Before Swine



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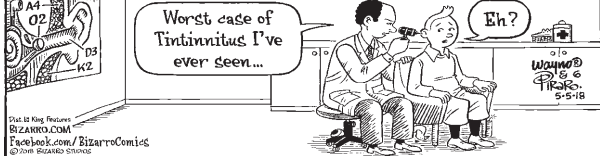
Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



# Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11
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38	39	40							41		42	43
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46									47			
48									49		50	
51									52		53	

## ACROSS

- 1 PX patrons
- 4 "Young Frankenstein" role
- 8 Gum flavor
- 12 Fan's cry
- 13 Carton sealer
- 14 "Got it"
- 15 Conceit
- 16 In — (shortly)
- 17 Jubilation
- 18 Four-leaf clover, traditionally
- 21 Wardrobe malfunction
- 22 Granola morsel
- 23 Swiss money
- 26 Wolf Blitz's channel
- 27 Fib
- 30 Car
- 31 Derek and Diddle
- 32 Vanished
- 33 Spelldown
- 34 A billion years
- 35 Put (down), as cash
- 36 Inlet
- 37 Hot temper
- 38 Bring-a-dish affair
- 45 Zhivago's love
- 46 Singles
- 47 Shock partner
- 48 "Nopel"
- 49 Squad

## DOWN

- 1 Actor Kinnear
- 2 Shakespearean villain
- 3 "Scram!"
- 4 Slanted type
- 5 Fill the tank
- 6 Oil cartel
- 7 Supposes
- 8 Power
- 9 Madonna's "La — Bonita"
- 10 — -do-well
- 11 Abound
- 19 Bond foe
- 20 Paint container
- 23 "Terrif!"
- 24 Wish otherwise
- 25 Devoured
- 26 Swindle
- 27 Singer Reed
- 28 Hostel
- 29 "A spider!"
- 31 Refuse to buy
- 32 Hidden valley
- 34 Perfume label word
- 35 Spectrum creators
- 36 Doldrums, with "the"
- 37 Concepts
- 38 Asset
- 39 Waikiki's island
- 40 Loyal
- 41 Patella site
- 42 Cathedral area
- 43 Ornamental jug
- 44 Rules (Abbr.)

## Answer to Previous Puzzle

SUN	UNT	RST	MINIS
THO	ETA	ICONS	
OUT	DOWNTURNS		
URI	DONUT		
TANG	GYM	COZY	
	UTE	BRONZE	
CRIER		BOOZE	
DIMSUM	AIL		
SPOT	ELL	SAFE	
		TAILS	TRIM
URNS	DOWN	EDO	
AGANA	NEA	NET	
CHEER	STP	ALE	

## 5-5

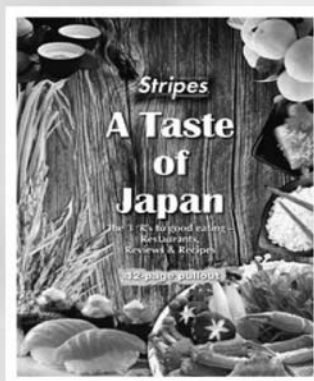
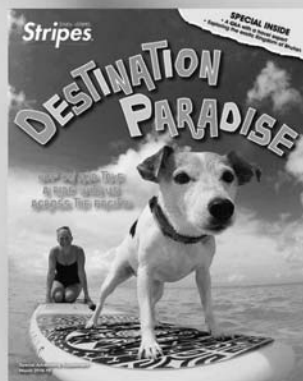
## CRYPTOQUIP

FUL FC DVYSV F KLAOBM YO  
HYZLHJ CB QFZL HBCO  
BW KHFJWTH ABQFMCYS  
U LOCTALO: WHYACJ -  
O BQLCVYMU .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: YOU ARE TELLING ME THAT NOBODY CAN TEMPORARILY STOP THAT MACHINE? HEY, ANYTHING IS PAUSABLE!

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: U equals G

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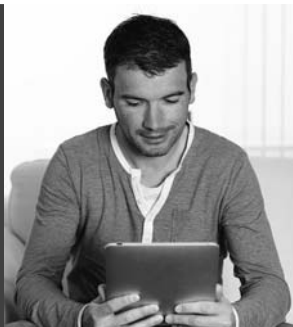
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## HIGH SCHOOL: DODEA EUROPE

## With new strikers, Royals now more goal-oriented

BY GREGORY BROOME  
Stars and Stripes

In recent seasons, the Ramstein boys soccer program has developed an identity constructed around a specific style of play.

The Royals sought to keep the ball in the midfield and prevent their opponent from mounting attacks, playing the odds that they'd find the occasional goal they'd need to win via a defensive mistake or set-piece shot.

For the most part, the formula yielded good results. The Royals won the 2015 Division I title by a 1-0 margin, and advanced to last year's divisional final after a 1-0 overtime win in the semifinals.

But there's a secret behind the Royals' distinct brand of soccer: it wasn't their first choice.

"As a coach you always have to adjust your playing style to the talent level," Ramstein coach Dominik Ludes said. "In the last couple of years, we always were defensive-minded because that was the talent that we had."

This year's Royals team is under no such restrictions. An influx of offensive talent has opened up a new world of possibilities for Ludes and the Royals, and they've spent the past few weeks exploring it, scoring a combined 14 goals in three games since spring break.

"Based on the talent we have, we changed the system...to be more on the offensive side," Ludes said. "We've been creating a lot of goal-scoring opportunities in the games lately."

Strikers Chris Slover and Jaden Buelvas are at the tip of the Royals' freshly sharpened spear.

Slover, a junior, has lived in the area for years but is playing his first season for the Royals. A veteran of local prep organization FC Saarbrücken, Slover injured his knee several months ago and is still working his way back toward a potential return to that level. But for now, his rehabilitation is being spent in the service of re-empowering Ramstein's offense.

"Why not give it a try?" Slover said of his decision to join the Royals.

The results have been remarkable. Slover scored two goals in Ramstein's 3-1 defeat of SHAPE on April 20, then scored three in a 7-0 rout of Vilseck on April 28.

While vastly different than his experiences in the German League, Slover has thoroughly enjoyed his prep debut.

"It's been actually quite fun," Slover said. "They're a good bunch of boys to be around."

While a talent like Slover would have made a difference for Ramstein in any context, his impact has been compounded by the arrival of freshman Jaden Buelvas at the opposite striker spot. The combined speed and aggres-



MICHAEL B. KELLER/Stars and Stripes

Ramstein's Jaden Buelvas lines up for a pass during practice in Reichenbach, Germany, on Tuesday.

**"Based on the talent we have, we changed the system...to be more on the offensive side. We've been creating a lot of goal-scoring opportunities in the games lately."**

Dominik Ludes  
Ramstein coach

sion of the new front line gives Ramstein a dimension previous Royals rosters have lacked.

"We can switch within seconds from playing defense to the counterattack," Buelvas said. "Go from our side to their side and score in the blink of an eye. That's what we're good at."

Nobody on the Ramstein roster understands the Royals' dramatic change as profoundly as midfielder Anthony Villella.

As a freshman, Villella broke free for an early goal in Ramstein's 3-1 European championship game loss to Kaiserslautern last spring before the Raiders' more potent offense took over the match. This year, he's attacking with some of DODEA Europe's most dangerous strikers on either flank.

"Last year I kind of had to work alone at the top," Villella said. "Now it's a lot easier to get goals."

While Villella still finds plenty of opportunities for shots of his own — he matched Slover's total of three goals in the shutout of

Vilseck — the midfielder is more than happy to distribute the ball around and watch his teammates finish the job.

"They're both so fast," Villella said. "I can literally just look up, play a ball anywhere and they'll get to it."

Ludes is quick to point out that the offensive highlights are still dependent on the grittier midfield work of winning the ball and playing it forward. Sophomore Gavin McMillan and newly arrived senior Dylan Grimes are among the key links in that chain.

"The connection between the midfielders and the offense has to be there as well for these guys to even have a chance to get into goal-scoring position," Ludes said.

Those chances, however, are arriving at an unprecedented rate for a newly dynamic Ramstein boys soccer squad.

"It's a nice change," Ludes said.

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MICHAEL B. KELLER/Stars and Stripes

Black Forest Academy's Jurian Van den Berg, left, and Kaiserslautern's Conner Mackie battle for the ball in Kaiserslautern, Germany, during a game in March.

## Weekend peek

## Defending D-I champs facing telling tests

BY GREGORY BROOME  
Stars and Stripes

Both of DODEA Europe's reigning Division I soccer champions will be on the field Friday as Kaiserslautern visits Wiesbaden. And both find themselves in the midst of a challenging tie defense that has seen several contenders apply to supplant them.

The Kaiserslautern boys have inevitably come down from the heights they reached in the spring of 2017, when a star-studded, senior-heavy roster delivered the Raiders a long-awaited championship. The cost of that euphoric tie was a purge of talent and experience that left Kaiserslautern looking at a rebuild.

The Raiders scored just three goals in as many games prior to spring break but have found their rhythm since, routing Alconbury and old nemesis Lakenheath by a combined score of 15-1. But Wiesbaden will test the sustainability of the Raiders' offensive resurgence; the Warriors have yielded just two goals in the course of a strong 5-1 start to the season.

The Wiesbaden girls, who bested favored Stuttgart in a title-game shootout last spring, have

followed a similar path as their field Division I champions in Kaiserslautern.

The Warriors started their season with a discouraging 5-1 loss to Stuttgart in a rematch of the 2017 final, then took a 4-2 loss to consistent contender Ramstein a week later. But Wiesbaden responded with an offensive explosion, scoring a combined 23 goals in four runaway victories.

Just as the Wiesbaden boys figure to give the reigning Raiders a hard time, so too should Kaiserslautern's solid girls squad test the mettle of the Warriors girls. The Raiders bring the momentum of a 5-0 shutout of Lakenheath into the weekend.

Both defending champions could use a win to keep pace among deep fields of Division I title hopefuls. With just two weekends to play before the tournament, the Kaiserslautern boys and Wiesbaden girls are looking at middle or low seeds in their respective brackets barring a late-season push, making the task of a successful title defense all the more difficult.

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## Games of the week

## Track

Naples, Aviano, Vicenza, Marymount, Wiesbaden, Vilseck at Stuttgart

Saturday

DODEA Europe's Italian track programs make their lone regular-season trip outside the country with a visit to the southern German home of the Stuttgart Panthers, bringing enough talent with them to make a major impact just three weeks before returning for the European championship meet May 25-26 at Kaiserslautern.

The Naples boys, featuring standout relay units and a core of powerful short-put performers, have taken first place in every meet this season. Wildcats senior Austin McKamey, a top-10 finisher in the high jump at last year's finals, remains a force in that event.

Naples' rival Vicenza has largely seized control of the girls side in Italy; the Cougars' first-place finish Saturday was their second in three meets. Senior sprinter Brandy James, the 2017 European runner-up in the 100-meter dash, again ranks among the DODEA Europe elite.



## MLB

# K's exceed hits in month for first time in history

By RONALD BLUM  
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Baseball had a whiff of offense in the air during a cold and wet April.

Strikeouts exceeded hits during a full calendar month for the first time in the sport's nearly century-and-a-half history, according to the Elias Sports Bureau. Nearly one-third of plate appearances this season have ended without the ball being put in play.

"One month is a rather small sample and we are hoping that the phenomenon of strikeouts exceeding hits is an anomaly that will not persist over the course of the season," baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred said in an email to The Associated Press.

Major League Baseball has been increasingly become a game of long balls and long walks — back to the dugout.

There were 6,656 strikeouts and 6,360 hits in April, according to Elias. The previous low differential was in April 2017, when there were 138 more hits than strikeouts.

"It's what's sexy now," Cincinnati catcher Tucker Barnhart said. "Home runs are sexy. Strikeouts are sexy. Early ground balls with one strike are not sexy."

Including the first three days of the season in March, 32.8 percent of 32,324 plate appearances this season have ended without a batted ball in play: 7,335 strikeouts, 2,921 walks, 354 hit batters and eight catcher's interference calls.

"Everyone wants more action, so I can't probably say it's good for baseball unless you want to go out there and see pitchers go



ALEX GALLARDO/AP

**The San Diego Padres' Chase Headley reacts after a called third strike on April 5.**

for 25 strikeouts," said Minnesota manager Paul Molitor, a Hall of Famer. "I just don't think that would be the choice day to say for most people to come out and watch."

Home runs dipped slightly from last year's record level. There were 912 long balls in 419 games through Monday, an average of 2.18, down from 863 in 369 games through the first full month last year, an average of 2.34. Scoring dropped slightly to 8.93 runs per game from 8.96.

Strikeouts have set a record for 10 consecutive seasons, and the average of 17.5 per game in

April was a major league record for a calendar month, according to Elias. This year's rate projects to 42,539 — which would shatter last year's mark of 40,104. The total was 32,884 in 2008.

"I think more specialized use of the bullpen — bullpen arms, bullpen power, bullpen strikeouts," Colorado manager Bud Black said. "It is not surprising, yet alarming at the same time. I think you will see in time a correction in amateur baseball where putting the ball in play will become more of a priority."

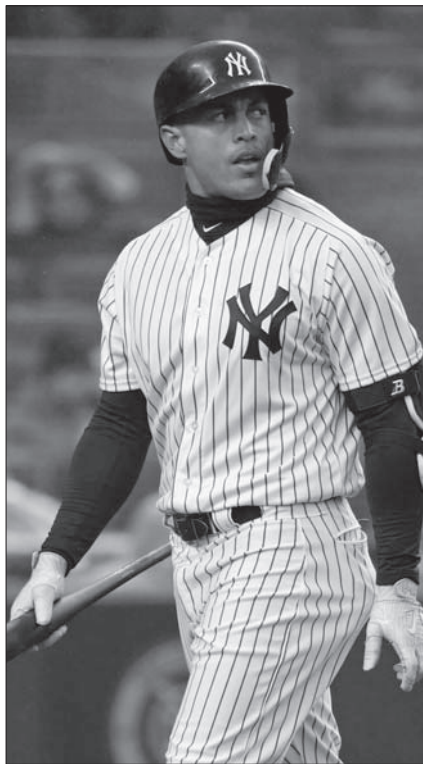
Joe DiMaggio never struck out more than 39 times in a season. Among those who already topped that this season are Yoan Moncada of the Chicago White Sox (47), Carlos Gomez of Tampa Bay (40), and Giancarlo Stanton of the New York Yankees and Yoenis Cespedes of the Mets (43).

"Maybe we're accepting the strikeout now. We're accepting it in high school and college and Little League," said Miami manager Don Mattingly, whose strikeout high was 43. "It's really different from when I first came up. It was embarrassing to strike out."

San Diego batters lead the majors with 309 strikeouts, and Kansas City and Seattle are tied for the fewest at 200.

"Added velocity, data information, really knowing where to attack a hitter in the zone, really presents a big hole unless you're exceptionally talented," Chicago Cubs manager Joe Maddon said.

Just 11 teams have more hits than strikeouts, and Boston has the top differential (270 hits and 214 strikeouts). The Padres, with 235 hits, have the worst.



KATHY WILLENS/AP

**New York Yankees right fielder Giancarlo Stanton returns to the dugout after one of five strikeouts in the Yankees' home opener against Tampa Bay on April 3. There were more strikeouts than hits in the first month of the season, when home runs dipped from last year's record during a cold and wet April. Stanton, last year's National League MVP in Miami, has already struck out 43 times.**

## Mets' Frazier wants meeting with Manfred about umpires

By JAKE SEINER  
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Mets third baseman Todd Frazier is asking for a meeting with baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred over his growing frustration with the way umpires are calling balls and strikes.

Frazier argued with home plate umpire Lance Barrett while New York was three-hit in a 7-0 loss to Atlanta on Wednesday night, then criticized umpiring around the majors after the game.

"I'd like to sit down with Manfred or anybody at MLB and talk to them about it, because it's rubbing everybody the wrong way," Frazier said. "You have to be better than that."

Frazier said "everybody" included hitters around the league, not just in New York.

The two-time All-Star and eight-year veteran claims umpires have done a worse job this season calling balls and strikes, and he has already had one private meeting with an umpire to discuss the strike

zone. Frazier declined to name the umpire, saying only he met with one in San Diego on Sunday. Mark Ripberger, Marty Foster and Doug Eddings worked behind the plate during New York's series against the Padres.

Frazier said the umpire who met with him blew five calls during Frazier's plate appearances during one game. Frazier said the postgame report provided to Mets players had that umpire missing 14 pitches total.

"I respect him for doing that," Frazier said of the umpire who met with him. "But at the same time, when you look back and see this kind of stuff where they're blatantly not strikes, I just can't sit back and let it go anymore. Something has to be said."

Frazier's frustrations boiled over Wednesday while the Mets were shut down by starter Sean Newcomb.

"I'm not making excuses. We lost fair and square," Frazier said. "The kid pitched a hell of a game. But these umpires gotta get better. Bottom line."



KYUSUNG GONG/AP

**The New York Mets' Todd Frazier, right, talks with umpire Doug Eddings during his team's game against the San Diego Padres on April 27 in San Diego. Frazier is asking for a meeting with baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred over his growing frustration with the way umpires are calling balls and strikes.**

## MLB

## Scoreboard

## American League

	East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	22	8	733	—	
New York	20	10	667	2	
Toronto	19	11	657	3	
Tampa Bay	13	16	448	8½	
Baltimore	12	17	267	14	
	Central Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	16	13	552	—	
Minnesota	16	16	448	3	
Chicago	10	16	385	4½	
Chicago	8	20	296	7½	
Kansas City	8	22	267	8½	
	West Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	20	12	625	—	
Los Angeles	18	12	600	5	
Seattle	17	12	586	1½	
Oakland	15	15	500	4	
Texas	12	20	375	8	

## National League

	East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	18	11	621	—	
Philadelphia	17	11	607	½	
Philadelphia	17	12	567	1½	
Washington	15	16	484	4	
Miami	11	19	367	7½	
	Central Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	18	13	594	—	
St. Louis	17	12	586	½	
Chicago	16	12	571	1	
Chicago	17	14	548	1½	
Cincinnati	22	24	226	11½	
	West Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Arizona	21	9	700	—	
Colorado	19	13	631	5	
San Francisco	16	15	516	5½	
Los Angeles	13	17	433	8	
San Diego	11	21	344	11	

## Wednesday's games

Boston 5, Kansas City 4
Detroit 3, Tampa Bay 2, 12 innings
Minnesota 4, Toronto 0
Cleveland 12, Texas 4
St. Louis 3, Chicago White Sox 2
N.Y. Yankees 4, Houston 0
L.A. Angels 10, Baltimore 0
Oakland 3, Seattle 2
Colorado 11, Chicago Cubs 2
San Francisco 9, San Diego 4
Washington 9, Pittsburgh 3
Atlanta 7, N.Y. Mets 0
Milwaukee 3, Cincinnati 1
Philadelphia 6, Miami 0
L.A. Dodgers 2, Arizona 1

## Thursday's games

Toronto at Cleveland
N.Y. Yankees at Houston
Detroit at Kansas City
Toronto at Cleveland
Boston at Texas
Minnesota at Chicago White Sox
Baltimore at L.A. Angels
Oakland at Seattle
Pittsburgh at Washington
Atlanta at N.Y. Mets
L.A. Dodgers at Arizona

## Friday's games

Cleveland at Toronto 6-4 at N.Y. Yankees (Sabathia 2-0)
Toronto (Happ 4-1) at Tampa Bay (Yarborough 1-1)
Boston (Porcello 4-4) at Texas (Colton 1-0)
Minnesota (Berrios 2-3) at Chicago White Sox (Jeter 2-1)
Detroit (Furion 3-1) at Kansas City (Kennedy 1-3)
Houston (Cole 2-1) at Arizona (TBD)
Baltimore (Cashner 1-4) at Oakland (Menden 2-3)
L.A. Angels (TBD) at Seattle (Leake 3-2)
Philadelphia (Pivetta 1-1) at Washington (Gonzalez 3-2)
Los Angeles (Márquez 1-3) at N.Y. Mets (Wheeler 2-1)
San Francisco (Chen 1-4) at Cincinnati (Romano 1-3)

San Francisco (TBD) at Atlanta (Dorvick 2-1)
Pittsburgh (Kingham 1-0) at Milwaukee (Furion 3-1)
Chicago Cubs (Quintana 3-1) at St. Louis (Molina 2-1)
L.A. Dodgers (Maeda 2-2) vs. San Diego (Lucchesi 3-1) at Monterrey

## Saturday's games

Cleveland at N.Y. Yankees
Detroit at Milwaukee
Toronto at Tampa Bay
Minnesota at Chicago White Sox
Boston at Texas
Baltimore at Oakland
L.A. Angels at Seattle
Chicago Cubs at St. Louis
Philadelphia at Washington
N.Y. Mets at San Francisco
L.A. Dodgers vs. San Diego at Monterrey
Miami at Cincinnati
Pittsburgh at Milwaukee
San Francisco at Atlanta
Houston at Arizona

## Calendar

<b>June 4</b> — Amateur draft starts.
<b>June 13-14</b> — Owners' meetings, New York.
<b>June 15</b> — International amateur signing deadline.
<b>June 22</b> — Last day of spring for amateur draft picks subject to deadline.
<b>July 1</b> — All-Star Game, Washington.
<b>July 29</b> — Hall of Fame inductions, Cooperstown, N.Y.
<b>July 31</b> — Last day to trade a player without securing waivers.
<b>Aug. 1</b> — Last day to be contracted to an organization and be eligible for post-season roster.

## Hard work puts Pujols on brink

Teammates say determination, drive have pushed slugger to hitting milestone

By MIKE DIGIOVANNA  
Los Angeles Times

ANAHEIM, Calif. — When Tommy John beat the Angels for his 26th victory in May 1987, the left-hander, then a 44-year-old with the New York Yankees, was asked if he had a burning desire to win 300 games.

"The only thing that burns inside of me," John said, "is Szechuan cooking."

Such words would never be uttered by Albert Pujols, the Angels slugger with a seemingly endless reservoir of drive and determination and a work ethic that borders on maniacal—a combination that has helped push Pujols to the brink of another historic milestone.

With two more hits, Pujols, 38, will become the 32nd major leaguer to reach the 3,000-hit mark, and only the fourth with at least 3,000 hits and 600 home runs, joining Hank Aaron, Willie Mays and Alex Rodriguez.

From his childhood in the Dominican Republic to his high school and junior college years in Missouri, his 11-year reign as baseball's best right-handed hitter in St. Louis and his seven years in Anaheim, there have been no shortcuts on the path to baseball's Hall of Fame.

"The one thing that is very understated about Albert is the sense of how hard he actually works at hitting, the studying of the pitchers, the actual time he spends in the cage," said David Eckstein, the former Angels shortstop who was a teammate of Pujols in St. Louis from 2005 to 2007.

"When the best player on your team is the hardest worker, it helps the club win. So when you take that work ethic and you add it to someone who has the skill set he has, the eye-sight he has, the hand-eye coordination he has with hitting, that's why he's closing in on 3,000 hits and 600 home runs."

Eckstein played with Pujols when the latter was "The Machine," his nickname during a career with the Cardinals (2001-11) in which he hit .328 with a 1,037 on-base-plus-slugging percentage, averaged 40 homers and 120 RBIs a season and won three most valuable player awards and two World Series titles.

A series of leg and foot injuries and age have reduced Pujols to a .261 hitter with a .775 OPS with the Angels, but he still produced three 30-homer seasons and four 100-RBI seasons in the first six years of a 10-year, \$240-million contract.

Pujols, who reached 2,998 career hits with a home run and a double against Baltimore on Wednesday and is batting .248 with six homers and 15 RBIs, has never veered from the work habits that made him one of baseball's most feared sluggers.

"He works on his swing every day — he never takes a day off," Angels center fielder Mike Trout said. "He's been up here for so long, 17, 18 years, and he still keeps the same routine every single day, just coming in and working hard."

Pujols is a creature of habit when it comes to preparing for a game. He performs about a dozen hitting-off-a-tee drills and an extensive soft-toss ritual before he steps into the batting cage. He has no interest in trying to hit balls 500 feet during batting practice.

"He swings the bat with a purpose," Eckstein said. "You won't see Albert launching balls in BP. He focuses on line drives, going gap-to-gap, using the whole field. If you learn how to take the bat to the ball with a more consistent, level swing, that's what the doubles soar and the home runs show up."

Eckstein was no stranger to hard work. What he lacked in size and tools he made up for with grit, transforming himself from a power-hitting leadoff hitter for the World Series-winning Angels in 2002 and



MARK J. TERRILL/AP

Angels slugger Albert Pujols, right, hits a double in front of Orioles catcher Caleb Joseph and home plate umpire Roberto Ortiz during the fifth inning Wednesday in Anaheim, Calif.

Cardinals in 2006. But Pujols still rubbed off on Eckstein in other ways.

"He had a keen sense of being able to lock in on pitchers and see the little things that might tip off what they're going to throw," Eckstein said. "He'd point it out to me on video and live. 'When you see this, this is what they're gonna throw.' Most pitchers, without even knowing, have certain habits."

New Angels second baseman Ian Kinsler, in his first season with Pujols, is already reaping similar benefits.

"Watching him get prepared for that certain pitcher, what his approach is gonna be, talking to him at-bat to at-bat. It's a lot of fun to watch guys of that caliber," Kinsler said. "For me, when you're in your 16th or 17th year in the big leagues and your focus is still at an elite level, I think that's what is most impressive."

Kinsler, a former Rangers and Tigers infielder, played against Pujols for six years and saw how injuries slowed him in the batter's box and especially on the bases.

He was impressed when Pujols, listed as 6-foot-3 and 240 pounds, reported to camp 15 to 20 pounds lighter this spring after adjusting his winter workout regimen. That has allowed Pujols, relegated to designated hitter the last two seasons, to make 15 starts at first base already this season.

"That tells me he doesn't like being embarrassed," Kinsler said. "A lot of the work we put in, the things we do to prepare ourselves, is because we're all competitive people, we don't like to be embarrassed."

"Albert still has three more years on his contract, and he wants to hold true to that. He's that type of person. No one likes to go out there and look bad, or to look unfit, whatever the case may be. It's a pride thing."

For all of Pujols' power, he has never struck out more than 93 times in a season, and he's had 10 seasons with 70 strikeouts or fewer. Rodriguez, who had 3,115 hits and 696 homers, struck out 100 times or more in 14 of his 18 full seasons.

"Albert is such an anomaly in so many ways," said Rodriguez, who was in Anaheim for ESPN's Sunday night Angels-Yankees telecast. "When you think about the combination of power and contact, it's a lost art in today's game."

Could that make Pujols the last member of the 3,000-hit, 600-homer club?

"The game is being appraised and rewarded differently," Rodriguez said. "People are talking less about hits, RBIs and runs scored and more about home runs, strikeouts, walks and launch angles. So, for that reason, it will be hard to find more of that combination of power and contact."

# AUTO RACING/KENTUCKY DERBY



MICHAEL CONROY/AP

IndyCar driver Danica Patrick climbs into her car for a test drive at Indianapolis Motor Speedway in Indianapolis on Tuesday. Patrick is returning to IndyCar after competing in NASCAR since 2012 for one last run at the Indianapolis 500. The 36-year-old says it will be the final race of her career.

## Patrick settling into IndyCar

Much has changed since driver last competed on open-wheel circuit

By MICHAEL MAROT  
Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Danica Patrick got her No. 13 GoDaddy green Chevrolet up to speed quickly Wednesday.

She's still trying to find her comfort level, had just a brief bit of time in traffic when she saw behind team owner Ed Carpenter, and understands it's going to take some time to get reoriented with the new Indy cars.

If she's learned anything from her first two days on the track, it's this: patience. She had a text exchange with three-time Indianapolis 500 winner Dario Franchitti in which he said it took him two days to get comfortable again after an eight-month stint in stock cars.

"I did text Dario and say 'Well, that was a bit of a shock,'" she said. "It definitely felt like there were 14 turbos on it."

Much has changed since Patrick last competed on the open-wheel circuit in 2011.

The cars have a new, sleeker look, an aero kit series regulars are still trying to dial in, and turbo-charged engines to make them even faster. But Patrick faces a steeper learning curve than some after competing in NASCAR the past six years.

Admittedly, it hasn't been entirely smooth. During Tuesday's refresher course, she acknowledged she was anxious and apprehensive about the "heavy steering," and said she slept better Tuesday night after the day was in her review mirror. By Wednesday's closed manufacturers test session on India-

**‘The cars are not the same cars, but it's still the same race at the same track.’**

Chip Ganassi Racing managing director, who worked with three-time Indy 500 winner Dario Franchitti when he switched from NASCAR back to IndyCar

Mike Hull

napolis Motor Speedway's historic 2.5-mile oval, she was adapting to different padding inside the cockpit, tighter fitting seat belts and helmets, and a different feel in the driver's seat.

The next big step could be running side by side with other cars and relearning the golden rule of IndyCar racing: Rubbing fenders, trading paint and the bump-and-run style of racing prevalent in the Cup Series can be ruinous in this series.

So Patrick, a series regular from 2005-11, is taking it slowly.

"I never saw a car other than when I came in and out of the pits," she said during Wednesday's lunch break. "As for a tow, I know that if you can see a car, it's helping you. But if you see a car, it also can upset your car. There's no need to rush it."

Patrick won't be back on the oval until May 15.

Qualifying for the May 27 race is scheduled for May 19 and 20. Thirty-five driver-car combinations are attempting to qualify for the traditional 33-car starting field.

Those who have made the transition from the heavier, more protective Cup cars to IndyCars believe Patrick will make a relatively smooth transition.

"I think with all her experience here, it will be like riding a bike," said Larry Foyt, who started

three 500s after running in the 2003 Brickyard 400 before taking over as president of A.J. Foyt Racing.

"Driving here in a stock car, you're moving around, sliding there in the corners. I felt like it was easier to qualify for Indy 500."

Experience also might help Patrick in other ways.

Ed Carpenter's team has a knack for going fast in Indy qualifying, and with a veteran presence in Carpenter and a young, promising American Spencer Pigot, the 36-year-old Patrick seems like a perfect fit for the final race of her career.

"It's the whole mechanism, the team members doing pit stops seven or eight times under pressure, understanding the communication on the radio to make the right changes on the race car, and it's staying focused on the big prize, which is the race and not necessarily fast laps," said Chip Ganassi Racing managing director Mike Hull, who worked with Franchitti when he switched back to IndyCars. "The cars are not the same cars, but it's still the same race at the same track."

And Patrick still has a wealth of knowledge she can use to her advantage.

All she has to do is play it smart.

## Favorite: Justify has favorable post draw

FROM BACK PAGE

Bodemeister, also the last time he had two starters in the same year.

Like Justify, Bodemeister didn't race as a 2-year-old. He set a blistering pace and led the Derby until the final 150 yards when I'll Have Another overtook him to win by 1 1/2 lengths.

Magnum Moon, the 6-1 third choice, also is unbeaten and didn't run as a 2-year-old.

"It's going to happen," Baffert said, referring to the curse being broken. "Whether it happens this year or whatever, but it will happen because Bodemeister almost got away with it. But I don't really worry about that."

Baffert almost had a third starter this year until McKinnie developed a hind end issue that knocked him off the Derby trail.

"When McKinnie got hurt, I wanted to throw up," he said. "I really think McKinnie would probably be second choice here. We'd really have a 1-2 here."

Justify cleared the biggest pre-Derby hurdle by drawing the No. 7 post. Jockey Mike Smith can use the colt's early speed to position him well for the long run to the chaotic first turn. Solomini ended up in the No. 17 post; no horse has ever won from there.

Baffert turned 65 in January, making him eligible for Medicare and retirement at most other jobs. However, he entertains no such thoughts.

"I work hard at it. I just don't give up," the white-haired trainer said. "I'm constantly meeting people. They're sending me horses. If you don't have success, you're not going to get those opportunities."

After a successful run in the quarterhorse ranks, Baffert switched to thoroughbreds. He started with one horse.

"After 25 years, I'm finally getting horses that I don't have to buy," he said. "The big guys are sending me horses."

### Did you know

The Bob Baffert-trained colt American Pharoah swept the Kentucky Derby, Preakness and Belmont in 2015 to become racing's first Triple Crown winner in 37 years.



SOURCE: Associated Press

None was bigger than American Pharoah in 2015. The colt swept the Derby, Preakness and Belmont to become racing's first Triple Crown winner in 37 years.

Baffert has compared Justify to American Pharoah, citing the colt's imposing physical presence and big stride. Still, Justify has yet to encounter the kind of traffic the Derby's 20-horse stampede creates and the talent he'll run against on Saturday.

"I'd rather have a really talented horse than one who's seasoned and just on par with the rest of them," Baffert said.

Early on, Baffert knew Justify had the goods.

"The first time I worked him at Santa Anita, I knew he was a really good horse," he said. "The track was really deep that morning, and he went around there effortlessly. His first race, he ran incredibly and showed how special he was."

That kind of intuition is what separates Baffert from his rivals, fellow Hall of Famer trainer D. Wayne Lukas said.

"Bob's got a great feel for it," he said.



CHARLIE RIEDEL/AP

Trainer Bob Baffert watches a morning workout at Churchill Downs on Tuesday in Louisville, Ky. The 144th running of the Kentucky Derby is scheduled for Saturday.



## KENTUCKY DERBY

## Four more chances

Prolific trainer Pletcher back in contention as usual

Trainer Todd Pletcher

CHARLIE RIEDEL/AP

By CHILDS WALKER  
The Baltimore Sun

Every spring, we ask the same question. We take it for granted, really. How many horses will Pletcher have in the Derby?

We don't even have to specify that the Pletcher is Todd or that the Derby is in Kentucky. It's just a given that the biggest money-winning trainer in history (\$358.9 million and counting) will put more contenders in the sport's most targeted race than anyone else.

"I think he's spoiled us," NBC analyst and Hall of Fame jockey Jerry Bailey said.

Many trainers spend their whole careers fantasizing about even one Derby entrant. Pletcher has failed to put a contender in the race just once since 2000 and has saddled three or more 10 times, four or more an astonishing six times.

"If I had to compare me to an athlete, I'd compare him to LeBron James," said owner Mike Repole, who puts his best horses with Pletcher, including 2018 Derby contenders Vino Rosso and Noble Indy. "LeBron has three championships, but he's lost five, so I think sometimes we forget how important it is, how great it is, to be in the eight championships. To get four horses in the Derby numerous times, that's amazing."

Even by his usual standard, Pletcher has outdone himself in 2018. There are seven major prep races for the Derby, each worth 100 qualifying points and guaranteed entry to the 20-horse field at Churchill Downs. Pletcher-trained horses won four of them.

That quartet — Magnum Moon, Audible, Vino Rosso and Noble Indy — has won a combined \$3.16 million, meaning Pletcher has put together a terrific spring regardless of what happens in Saturday's

144th running of the Derby.

As usual, he acknowledged the achievements with a flat tone and a nod to the fact disappointment could lurk around the corner.

"Last year, we said it was a successful spring until the Preakness, right?" Pletcher said, alluding to Always Dreaming's victory in the 2017 Derby and subsequent struggles. "That's just the nature of the business."

For years, Pletcher was portrayed as the trainer who couldn't win the big one — the Bobby Cox to Bob Baffert's Joe Torre.

Starting with his maiden Derby in 2000, his first 24 entries failed to win before Super Saver ended that streak in 2010. He entered last year 1-for-45 before Always Dreaming gave him a second Derby win and a healthy dose of Kentucky vindication.

But Pletcher's many admirers argue that he's almost a victim of his own artistry. His win percentage is low, they say, because he's so prolific at getting horses — even unremarkable ones — to the first Saturday in May.

"He's one-for-one with favorites," Bailey said. "A lot of those 48 he got here, that was great in and of itself. Odds-wise, they didn't figure to win."

Asked to explain Pletcher's consistency, Bailey noted that he'd ridden with the trainer to Churchill Downs on Wednesday morning. The departure time? Try 4:15 a.m.

"Todd's amazing at getting horses here," said Elliott Walden, president and CEO of WinStar Farm, which owns pieces of Audible and Noble Indy. "A few years ago, he was getting a bad rap about his percentages, but this is a hard race to win. Anytime you're a favorite in most races, you expect to win. This race, you can't expect to win. There's just too many variables."

**'In sports, he's Bill Belichick, he's Gregg Popovich, he's Nick Saban. Why do they keep winning at a high level.'**

Mike Repole

Owner who puts his best horses with trainer Todd Pletcher

In his days as a trainer, Walden guided two Derby runners-up, Victory Gallop in 1998 and Menifee in 1999. But he has joked that the smartest thing WinStar owner Kenny Troutt ever did was replace him with Pletcher as the farm's go-to trainer.

"It's two things," Walden said in explaining his friend's success. "One is work ethic. You can call him at 4:30 in the morning and he's at the barn, seven days a week. I can't name too many people who work as hard as Todd Pletcher does. And two is organization. He's a CEO-minded person. Everything is very organized, methodical, nonemotional."

As Pletcher describes it, the multidirectional road to the Derby is not exactly quantum physics. He simply comes up with sensible plans for each horse and, with the help of his trusted lieutenants, leaves no stone unturned in bringing them all to fruition.

For example, Magnum Moon, an undefeated 6-1 choice in the morning line, was a May foal and didn't run his first race until Jan. 13 of this year. So it made sense to point him toward the Arkansas Derby, the latest of the major prep races.

For Audible, the tough competition in Florida was always the destination, much like Always Dreaming the previous winter.

With Vino Rosso, Pletcher urged Repole and co-owner Vinnie Viola to be patient after a pair of humdrum results from early prep races at Tampa Bay

Downs. Look at the way he works in the morning and the power with which he gallops out at the end of races, he told them. Sure enough, Vino Rosso blossomed in the Wood Memorial, showing the stamina he'd need for the 1¼-mile distance of the Derby.

With an operation set up to work effectively at three tracks simultaneously — a big-picture approach he learned from his mentor, D. Wayne Lukas — Pletcher plays the entire map better than anyone.

But so many things can go wrong with each horse — a nagging injury here, a poor reaction to a track surface there, an inability to handle the frantic atmosphere around a big race. Pletcher confronts these eventualities every year and still delivers multiple contenders to the Derby like other people mow the lawn.

Sure, he benefits from the deep stock of expensive, talented horses that enter his operation every year. But there's a reason successful owners trust him with their most prized assets.

"In sports, he's Bill Belichick, he's Gregg Popovich, he's Nick Saban," Repole said. "Why do they keep winning at a high level? It might be Tom Brady, but then [the Patriots] have got different running backs and different receivers and different defensive players every year. The common denominator for Todd, maybe he's got great owners, but it's different horses every year so it's a remarkable feat that I don't think

people pay enough attention to."

Those who work closely with Pletcher say he's the rare person who never loses interest in what he's doing, regardless of how many times he's won the same race or how many career records he's topped at age 50. If that leads to jokes about how he's a robot, well, they're delivered with respect and affection.

"It really is uncanny," said Viola, who co-owned Always Dreaming and now co-owns Vino Rosso with Repole. "I don't think the sport really has come up with the appropriate explanation for his excellence and dominance. He's been around these equine athletes his whole life. He's experienced every part of the game you can. But he's relentless with his meticulous approach, his consistency. He never loses that fire. That I think is his secret."

Baffert offered a sly grin when asked about his greatest rival. He said Pletcher's success flows entirely from his time at the University of Arizona, which also happens to be Baffert's alma mater.

Turning more serious, he said: "What we have in common is we started with one client and one horse, and the reason we've been successful — you have to produce. You have to produce in this game. He works hard at it. It's seven days a week, and you have to make a lot of sacrifices to be in this position."

Balancing multiple horses and owners during Derby week has become second nature for Pletcher. But the one part he has not mastered is winning the race.

"It's actually a little more complicated," he said. "To get a real handle, I'll have to go back and watch the replay a number of times, watch each horse individually."

As with the questions about his winning percentage, it's a problem he's happy to have.

## NHL PLAYOFFS

## DELIVERING THE GOODS

## High-scoring top lines are dominating best defenders

By STEPHEN WHYNO  
Associated Press

**E**ach time Boston's top line jumps over the boards, the Tampa Bay Lightning are on red alert.

Make a mistake and Brad Marchand, Patrice Bergeron and David Pastrnak can make you pay. They have.

"You think it's going all right and you're playing well, and they only need one look," Lightning defenseman Ryan McDonagh said. "We knew that. That's no surprise. They're a good line."

Top lines are lighting up opponents all over the playoffs, ratcheting scoring up to a pace not seen in more than two decades. Top trios from the Capitals, Golden Knights, Penguins, Jets and Predators are having their way against top opposing defenses. Goals are supposed to be harder to come by in the playoffs, but after years of NHL rule changes to get goals, goals and more goals, that is exactly what's happening.

"Every line, every group of forwards, gives different challenges for defenses," Washington coach Barry Trotz said. "It's the types of reads and the tendencies of the group and as a series goes on there's going to be more and more deception happening from a forward group to our group of defenders and vice versa. It's the constant reads and the constant

communication and the constant positioning that you have to have against really dynamic people who are good collectively or individually."

Especially in the Stanley Cup playoffs, it's not easy being D.

A total of 332 goals were scored through the first 54 playoff games, the most at that point since 1996 (338). Elite goalenders are putting on a show, yet top lines like Jake Guentzel, Sidney Crosby and Patric Hornqvist (Pittsburgh); Alex Ovechkin, Evgeny Kuznetsov and Tom Wilson (Washington); Kyle Connor, Mark Scheifele and Blake Wheeler (Winnipeg); Jonathan Marchessault, William Karlsson and Reilly Smith (Vegas); and Filip Forsberg, Ryan Johansen and Viktor Arvidsson (Nashville) are taking advantage of their opportunities.

Top lines have been on the ice for 42 of the 78 goals scored through Tuesday in the second round, a showcase of skill that shows great offense is beating great defense. So many of the game's best defenses are now counted on as much for their offense as the play in their own end, yet even those tasked with stopping the stars haven't been able to do it.

"We've got a game plan, but I don't think we've completely executed it yet," Sharks defenseman Brenden Dillon said of containing the Golden Knights' top line.



MARK HUMPHREY/AP

Winnipeg Jets center Mark Scheifele, left, checks Nashville Predators left wing Austin Watson against the boards. Scheifele, Kyle Connor and Blake Wheeler form Winnipeg's top line.



CHARLES KRUPA/AP

Boston Bruins left wing Brad Marchand, left, and right wing David Pastrnak, bottom, are knocked to the ice by Tampa Bay Lightning center Steven Stamkos, right, and defenseman Ryan McDonagh. Marchand and Pastrnak are on Boston's top line, which draws special attention every time it's on the ice.

"We're kind of doing it in bits and pieces."

The Penguins trail the Capitals 2-1 in their second-round series in part because they haven't gotten much offense beyond Guentzel, Crosby and Hornqvist, plus the goals that top line is giving up to Ovechkin and Kuznetsov.

"They're pretty aggressive, so there's some open ice heading the other way against them," top Capitals defenseman Matt Niskanen said. "You've got to defend hard when they have it and make your plays and have confidence to make plays when you do have it. If you're only playing defense against them, it's going to be a long night. You have to go on the attack, as well."

That's the risk-reward for elite defenders in the playoffs: knowing when to counterattack. It has worked some for the Bruins, who so far have limited the damage from Tampa Bay's J.T. Miller, Steven Stamkos and Nikita Kucherov and put up some goals against them.

Bruins' defensesmen Zdeno Chara and Charlie McAvoy corralled Auston Matthews and Toronto's top offensive performers in the first round and continue to draw the toughest assignments against the Lightning.

"The guys on the ice, that's their assignment for 15, 18 minutes, whatever they play at even strength that night," Boston coach Bruce Cassidy said.

### By the numbers

# 332

Number of goals scored through the first 54 games of the playoffs, the most at that point since 1996, when 338 were scored.

# 42

Number of goals for which the top lines have been on the ice out of the 78 goals scored through Tuesday in the second round.

# 27:18

Ice time per game of Washington defenseman John Carlson, who leads all remaining players in the playoffs in ice time.

"There's no magic formula about following them around or any particular structure other than Z and Charlie have done a good job of not getting caught up ice, giving them odd-man rushes for the most part."

Pittsburgh's biggest hole through three games defensively — outside of Matt Murray's apparently vulnerable glove hand — has been defending the Capitals on the rush.

"They're a very skilled team," defenseman Justin Schultz said. "You've got to have numbers back and keep your head on a swivel."

It's not just rush goals, though, as the Jets' Connor, Scheifele and Wheeler showed in helping lead a comeback from down 3-0 to beat the Predators 7-4 to take a 2-1 series lead. Winnipeg and Nashville have combined for 25 goals despite two Vezina Trophy finalists in net and some of the best defenses in hockey. It's a blueprint for how the NHL wanted to crank up offense.

"I think the mindset is definitely to play well defensively," Predators captain Roman Josi said. "Both teams want to play a good game defensively, and for some reason these two teams seem to bring the best out of each other and they're always high-scoring games."

AP sports writers Josh Dubow in San Jose, Calif., and Teresa M. Walker in Nashville, Tenn., and freelance reporter Matt Kalman in Boston contributed.

SOURCES: Associated Press, NHL.com

## NHL PLAYOFFS

## Scoreboard

## Conference semifinals

(Best-of-seven; x-if necessary)

## EASTERN CONFERENCE

Washington 2, Pittsburgh 1  
 Pittsburgh 3, Washington 2  
 Washington 4, Pittsburgh 1  
**Tuesday:** Washington 4, Pittsburgh 3  
**Thursday:** at Pittsburgh  
**Saturday:** at Washington **AFP-Sports2**,  
 1:15 a.m. **Sunday** **CEI**; 8:15 a.m. **Sunday** **JKT**  
**x-Monday, May 7:** at Pittsburgh  
**x-Wednesday, May 9:** at Washington  
**Tampa Bay 2, Boston 1**  
 Boston 6, Tampa Bay 2  
 Tampa Bay 4, Boston 2  
**Wednesday:** Tampa Bay 4, Boston 1  
**Friday:** at Boston **AFP-Sports2**, 1 a.m.  
**Saturday CEI**; 8 a.m. **Saturday JKT**  
**Sunday, May 6:** at Tampa Bay  
**x-Tuesday, May 8:** at Boston  
**x-Thursday, May 10:** at Tampa Bay

## WESTERN CONFERENCE

Winnipeg 2, Nashville 1  
 Winnipeg 4, Nashville 1  
 Nashville 5, Winnipeg 4, 2OT  
**Tuesday:** Winnipeg 7, Nashville 4  
**Thursday:** at Winnipeg  
**Saturday:** at Nashville **AFP-Atlantic**,  
 3:30 a.m. **Sunday CEI**; 10:30 a.m. **Sunday** **JKT**  
**x-Monday, May 7:** at Winnipeg  
**x-Thursday, May 10:** at Nashville  
**Vegas 2, San Jose 2**  
 Vegas 7, San Jose 0  
 San Jose 4, Vegas 3, 2OT  
 Vegas 4, San Jose 3, OT  
**Wednesday:** San Jose 4, Vegas 0  
**Friday:** at Vegas **AFP-Sports2**, 4 a.m.  
**Saturday CEI**; 11 a.m. **Saturday JKT**  
**x-Sunday, May 6:** at San Jose  
**x-Tuesday, May 8:** at Vegas

## Wednesday

## Lightning 4, Bruins 1

**Tampa Bay** 3 0 1-4  
**Boston** 1 0 0-1  
**First Period**—1, Tampa Bay, Palat 3 (Johnson, Stralman), 1:47, 2, Tampa Bay, (at 4 (Hedman, Girardi), 3:19, 3, Boston, Bergeron 4 (Rich, Nash, Pastrnak), 14:12 (pp), 4, Tampa Bay, Cirelli 1 (Gourde, McDonough), 16:43  
**Third Period**—5, Tampa Bay, Stamkos 2 (Couture, Boeser), 19:18 (pp)  
**Shots on goal**—Tampa Bay 19-11-7=37; Boston 14-7-29  
**Power-play opportunities**—Tampa Bay 4 of 5; Boston 1 of 1  
**Goalies**—Tampa Bay: Vasilevsky 6-2 (29 shots-28 saves), Boston: Rask 5-5 (36-35)  
**A**—17,565 (17,565), T—2:38.

## Sharks 4, Golden Knights 0

**Vegas** 0 0 0-0  
**San Jose** 4 2 1-1  
**First Period**—1, San Jose, Sorenson 4 (Dillon, Fehr), 15:37, 2, San Jose, Donskoi 2 (Dillon), 19:54  
**Second Period**—3, San Jose, Herti 5 (Couture, Boeser), 5:35  
**Third Period**—1, San Jose, Pavelski 2 (Couture, Boeser), 11:43 (pp)  
**Shots on goal**—San Jose 14-11-34, San Jose 11-13-10-34  
**Power-play opportunities**—Vegas 0 of 5; San Jose 1 of 5  
**Goalies**—Vegas, Fleury 6-2 (34 shots-30 saves), San Jose, Jones 6-2 (34-34)  
**A**—17,562 (17,562), T—2:32.

By JOSH DUBOW

Associated Press

SAN JOSE, Calif. — Marcus Sorenson and Joonas Donskoi delivered the fast start San Jose coach Peter DeBoer wanted and Martin Jones did the rest to help the Sharks tie their playoff series with Vegas at two games apiece.

Sorenson and Donskoi scored in the first period and Jones made 34 saves for his sixth career postseason shutout as the Sharks bounced back from an overtime loss to beat the Golden Knights 4-0 in Game 4 on Wednesday night.

"We'd been chasing the game the whole series," DeBoer said. "We talked about it, but it's easier said than done. I think we've had chances in the last two games to get out in front, but (Marc-Andre) Fleury has I think been exceptional, especially early in games, in order to keep us off the board. It's nice that we've stuck with it, and hopefully we see some cracks."

Tomas Hertl added his team-leading fifth goal of the playoffs and Joe Pavelski scored a power-play goal in the third to set up a best-of-three for a spot in the Western Conference finals.

Game 5 is Friday night in Las Vegas.

Fleury made 30 saves and Vegas failed to convert on all five power-play chances while losing for the second time in eight games this postseason.

"They were a little more competitive than we were tonight," Golden Knights coach Gerard Gallant said. "We didn't play a bad game, but we didn't play well enough to win and they did, and they really did. I think we played well enough to win all of the first three, but tonight? No."

Jones was a big reason for that,



JEFF CHIU/AP

**Sharks center Joe Pavelski, top, scores a goal past Vegas Golden Knights goaltender Marc-Andre Fleury, right, during Game 4 of their second-round playoff series Wednesday in San Jose, Calif. The Sharks won 4-0 to even the best-of-seven series at 2-2.**

starting with a key save early against Reilly Smith. Jones was helped on a delayed penalty when Brent Burns cleared a puck off the goal line and when James Neal hit the post on a power play in the first period.

But the San Jose goalie also delivered some big-time saves, including back-to-back stops against William Karlsson and Jonathan Marchessault on a Vegas power play in the final minute of the second. Jones then turned aside Smith on a power play in the third.

Jones tied Evgeni Nabokov's

team record for most saves in a playoff shutout, and the Sharks have turned things around following a 7-0 loss in the opener.

"I thought we probably managed the puck a little bit better for the whole game," Jones said. "We won battles on the boards, we got pucks out when we needed to and we got pucks in when we needed to. That was big for us tonight."

Hertl helped give Jones a cushion with his goal early in the second. Logan Couture won an offensive zone faceoff against Erik Haula, and Mikkel Boedker took the puck behind the net for

a wraparound attempt. Hertl was in front and knocked in the loose puck to make it 3-0.

Pavelski's goal on the rebound of Couture's shot sealed the game midway through the third.

"At the start of the game they actually had some better looks than we did. I think they came out hard and better than we did and then Marcus scored and Joonas' goal was big as well," Couture said. "The 2-0 goal was a massive goal heading into the first intermission."

Vegas was never able to recover from that early deficit.

## Lightning strike, turn back Bruins

By JIMMY GOLEN

Associated Press

BOSTON — Between the birth of his first child in Tampa Bay and Game 3 of the Eastern Conference semifinals in Boston, Yanni Gourde squeezed in what could be his last nap for a while.

The Lightning forward spent the night with his wife and newborn daughter in the hospital on the off-day and flew to Boston on Wednesday. He missed the morning skate, but was waiting for his teammates at lunch.

He received quite a greeting. "It was like we scored a game-winning goal," coach John Cooper said after Ondrej Palat scored twice and Gourde assisted on Tampa Bay's third goal in a 4-1 victory over Boston that gave the Lightning a 2-1 lead in the series.

"It's a team that cares," Cooper said. "We're so happy for him."

Palat scored twice in the first 3:19 of the game, and Andrei Vasilevsky stopped 28 shots to help Tampa Bay to its second win in a row since losing the series opener in home.

Game 4 is Friday night. "Boston came in and took one of our

games at home, we had to take one of theirs on the road," Cooper said. "We did that."

After Patrice Bergeron made it a one-goal game, Anthony Cirelli scored his first career NHL playoff goal to give the Lightning a 3-1 lead late in the first. Gourde provided an assist, chasing the puck into the zone before finding Cirelli in the slot.

"The last 24 hours have been amazing," Gourde said. "Obviously, I wanted to be there for my wife and, I think, it ended up it was perfect."

Tuukka Rask made 33 saves for Boston. "Playoffs are desperate hockey," Bruins defenseman Charlie McAvoy said. "You don't ever go into any games saying 'Oh, we have the luxury of being able to lose this one.' That's not how it goes."

Palat scored just 1:47 in after Boston defenseman Matt Grzelcyk settled the puck with his glove in his own end, then appeared to lose track of it and skated away, leaving the Lightning with an easy 2-on-1 opportunity.

Palat made it 2-0 just 92 seconds later on a shot that deflected off Bruins defenseman Torey Krug and into the net.

"It's not good, obviously, but we've come back a lot," said Bruins coach Bruce Cas-

sidy, whose team has won 21 games this season in which it gave up the first goal.

"So this is nothing new," he said "You've still got 50-some minutes left. There's going to be a hail from the crowd, but you've got to get it back. ... The second and third goals, to me, are much worse."

It stayed 3-1 through the second period and most of the third, until the Lightning picked up a power play in the final two minutes of the game when Krug tripped Cirelli as he chased after the puck with an empty net in front of him.

The Lightning made it 4-1 anyway when Steven Stamkos found the empty net on the power play with 42 seconds left.

**Notes:** Former Red Sox pitcher Pedro Martinez was the honorary fan banner captain, waving a Bruins flag before the game. He was also showed several times on the scoreboard trying to get the fans fired up. ... Brad Marchand picked up a second-period slashing penalty and had to be forcibly steered to the penalty box by a linesman while he argued the call. ... The Lightning won for just the 10th time in 54 visits to TD Garden. Tampa Bay is 13-9 all-time in Game 3s and 7-5 in Game 3s on the road.



CHARLES KRUPA/AP

**Bruins left wing Brad Marchand, right, upends Tampa Bay Lightning defenseman Dan Girardi as they chase the puck during the first period of Game 3 of their second-round playoff series Wednesday in Boston. The Lightning won 4-1 to take a 2-1 lead in the best-of-seven series.**



## NBA PLAYOFFS

# Rookies Tatum, Fultz having very different playoff experiences

By KYLE HIGHTOWER  
Associated Press

BOSTON — When Markelle Fultz spent two days in Boston last June visiting the Celtics during the pre-draft process, it felt like home.

He walked the streets downtown and later found himself soaking up the history that clings to the championship banners swaying above the TD Garden court.

"It almost feels like I belong here," Fultz said at the time.

It turned out to be nothing more than a field trip when the Celtics surprised many and passed on selecting Fultz with the No. 1 overall pick. They instead traded it to the 76ers for the third pick, which they used to grab Jayson Tatum, and a future first-round pick.

Right now it looks like a good move for Boston.

The Celtics lead Philadelphia in the Eastern Conference semifinals 1-0 entering Thursday's Game 2. Tatum has been a revelation on a team battered by injuries.

Tatum's role first increased when Gordon Hayward went down with an ankle injury, then again following Kyrie Irving's knee surgeries late in the season. Tatum has responded to every challenge, averaging 17 points,

**'For me, it's all an opportunity. When the coaches put me out there, that's what I'm going to be ready for. Other than that, I'm on the sidelines cheering my teammates.'**

**Markelle Fultz**

76ers' No. 1 overall draft pick

five rebounds and three assists in his first postseason.

"I enjoy it," Tatum said. "I dreamed of having big moments and having a big role. That obviously came a lot sooner than I thought. I'm just trying to prove that I belong here."

Fultz is not having nearly as much fun.

He has been reduced to a spectator after a down regular season that saw him go through shooting issues and miss 68 games with a shoulder injury. And this after having his shot dissected during the season.



But he insisted that he hasn't let any of it frustrate him.

"It didn't bother me really," he told The Associated Press. "I was

just happy with the team's success. That's all I'm about."

He finally returned for some game action during the final 10 games of the regular season. But it wasn't until the final night of the season that he provided his best example to date of the potential that the Sixers spent so much capital to draft.

Fultz looked at ease for the first time in months when at 19 he became the youngest NBA player to record a triple-double, registering 13 points, 10 assists and 10 rebounds in a win over Milwaukee.

Yet, while Boston is embracing Tatum, Fultz is still looking to make a meaningful postseason impact.

After playing 24 minutes over the first three games of the first round, Fultz was inactive in the final two games of the Miami series and didn't play in the opener against the Celtics.

He isn't only playing behind Rookie of the Year candidate Ben Simmons, but Fultz is also watching T.J. McConnell get minutes.

Sixers coach Brett Brown has left open the possibility for the former Washington Huskies guard to make an appearance in this series.

"It's my decision to go with T.J.," Brown said. "There are times that you for sure think about it. But to say (Fultz is) dead and buried, that's not true. But I got a decision to make."

Fultz is about to contribute in whatever way he's asked.

"For me, it's all an opportunity," Fultz said. "When the coaches put me out there, that's what I'm going to be ready for. Other than that, I'm on the sidelines cheering my teammates on."

## By the numbers

# 17

Points per game averaged by Boston Celtics rookie

Jayson Tatum this postseason, along with five rebounds and three assists.

# 68

Games missed this season by 76ers' No. 1 overall draft pick Markelle Fultz

due to a persistent — and somewhat mysterious — shoulder injury.

# 24

Minutes played by Fultz over the first three games of the first round. Fultz was inactive in the final two games of the Miami series and didn't play in the opener against the Celtics.

SOURCE: Associated Press



CHARLES KRUPA/AP

**Top:** Celtics rookie forward Jayson Tatum (0) drives to the basket against the Milwaukee Bucks during Game 7 of their first-round playoff series in Boston last Saturday. **Above:** 76ers rookie Markelle Fultz is fouled by Tatum during a game in October in Philadelphia. While Tatum blossomed into a key player for the Celtics this season, Fultz has struggled to find playing time due to a shoulder injury.

16 and scored 12 points. He was 42-for-71 — 59.2 percent — over the other four games against the Spurs.



## SPORTS



**Can't stop the music**  
Jazz seize home-court advantage from Rockets » **NBA Playoffs, Page 63**

## KENTUCKY DERBY



## BAFFERT'S BACK

# Hall of Fame trainer back with another favorite at Churchill Downs in Justify

By BETH HARRIS  
Associated Press

**B**ob Baffert is back at the Kentucky Derby with early favorite Justify after watching the race from his sofa in Southern California last year.

The Hall of Fame trainer's ability to produce Derby contenders year after year is an enviable feat and why his absence a year ago stood out. It was just his second since 2009 and occurred because his lone candidate got hurt.

Baffert will saddle Justify and 30-1 shot Solomini in Saturday's Derby.



Baffert

Justify is one of the greenest colts Baffert has brought to Churchill Downs. He's won all three of his starts by a combined 19 lengths. If Justify wins, he'd be the first to do so since Apollo in 1882 without racing as a 2-year-old.

"The thing about the Kentucky Derby, you have to have the right horse. It just happens. You can't force it," Baffert said. "All of a sudden, you have good horses and you're there. So I've been really fortunate to have some really good horses."

Baffert's four victories are tied for second-most in the race's 143-year history. He's finished second three times, too, including in 2012 with **SEE FAVORITE ON PAGE 58**



**Top:** Kentucky Derby entrant Justify runs during a morning workout at Churchill Downs on Wednesday in Louisville, Ky. **Right:** Justify, the early favorite for Saturday's 144th running of the Kentucky Derby, gets a morning bath on Tuesday. If the Bob Baffert-trained colt wins, he'd be the first to do so without racing as a 2-year-old since Apollo in 1882.

PHOTOS BY CHARLIE RIEDEL/AP

Ramstein has new strikers, new offensive philosophy » **High school, Page 55**

Sharks even series with Knights behind Jones' shutout » **NHL Playoffs, Page 61**

